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January 26, 1841.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Articulation, Pronunciation, Action corrected.—For terms apply to Mr. BUTLER, Teacher and Lecturer on Elocution, &c. &c., 19, Montpelier-street, Brompton.

AMERICA and the AMERICANS.—Mr. BUCKINGHAM'S New Course of LECTURES on AMERICA and the AMERICANS, at the CITY OF LONDON LITERARY INSTITUTION, 16, Aldersgate-street, on MONDAY EVENINGS, at 8, and at the MARTINEAU LITERARY INSTITUTION, 17, Edwards-street, Portman-square, on FRIDAY EVENINGS, at half-past 8. Tickets, 2s. each, to be had at the Rooms. Course Tickets at reduced prices.

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NOBLEMEN and GENTLEMEN, especially the residents in the neighbourhood, are respectfully informed that the ASSOCIATION of the ASSOCIATION, at Cavendish-square, are NOW OPEN, and communicate with the extended premises of the Royal Polytechnic Institution, in Regent-street, to which Members of the Association have free access.—For prospectuses and particulars apply, from the 1st of January last.—Particulars to be had of the Secretary.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1841.

REVIEWS

The Life of Beethoven; including his Correspondence with his Friends, numerous Characteristic Traits, and Remarks on his Musical Works. Edited by Ignace Moscheles, Esq. 2 vols. Colburn.

THERE is an important omission in the title-page to these volumes, which, in justice to the editor, cannot be too early announced; and the more so, as the erroneous impression it is calculated to convey is strengthened by the manner in which the book is lettered. We have here a translation of M. Schindler's 'Life of Beethoven,' the preface, notes, and appendix merely being by M. Moscheles. So well has the latter gentleman performed his task, that we wonder not at the publisher wishing to thrust as much as possible of the *onus* of authorship upon him, knowing what serviceable duty a distinguished name can be made to accomplish. But this concealment of the original author is, at once, unjust to M. Schindler and to M. Moscheles, and will lead many, notwithstanding the clear and explicit statement in the preface, to confuse inextricably the share of the several parties in the work before us. Were such omission, indeed, ever warrantable, it might have been excused in the present instance, for this English version of M. Schindler's biography is almost a new work, so large is the amount of valuable matter added. Yet the result of the labours of biographer, translator, and editor, is not a Life of Beethoven, but a collection of what the French call *Mémoires pour servir*. Of the real duties of a biographer, M. Schindler is totally ignorant. He has forgotten that it is not the familiar, but the obscure portions of any task, which require pains and research; that though (to quote his own pompous preface) "at the time of the most important occurrences of Beethoven's life he was constantly about his person, and assisting him in his occupations," it was necessary for him as a biographer to look back keenly and patiently,—to search for traits of the man as well as the artist, during those days when not only the foundations of his fame were laid, but the germs of his peculiarities of character first began to develop themselves. In place of such research, M. Schindler has been content to throw discredit on other memorialists. In one page, he denounces the 'Notizen' of Wegeler and Ries—while in another he authenticates their statements, by anecdotes which prove that their picture of the rugged student of Bonn, and of the uncouth hermit of Vienna, is identical with his own. Similar inconsistencies, born of a disproportionate conceit in his own powers, and a resolution to disparage those of others, are found in every department of M. Schindler's work. He attacks Madame von Arnim as the "overstrained Bettina" in one page, on the score of the "raptus" which she described as having herself witnessed in Beethoven—(the passage from her letters was given *Athen*, No. 416). In the next page, he quotes a letter from the composer himself to the very same faithless chronicler, fully as high-flown as the conversation she journalized for Goethe! Like contradictions are to be found in his artistic judgments—witness the *yes* and *no* of his two separate notices of Liszt. After having denounced "all flights of imagination and poetry on the subject of Beethoven's works," as things beyond the grasp of any biographer, M. Schindler has no objection to rhapsodize whenever an opportunity presents itself. He has a spite at all metronomic signs affixed to the master's works, as at variance with the composer's intentions—conceiving that himself and his pupil, Mdlle. Hansemann, possess the true

tradition of their execution; and he favours us, in the second volume, with some elaborate directions for the performance of the Sonata in G, Op. 14—directions most "forcibly feeble," inasmuch as they are so many *truisms*, which must occur to any musician of feeling, the composition being one of its master's simplest. Yet, if we remember rightly the history of a certain Dusseldorf Festival, directed by Mendelssohn within the last seven years, this is the very M. Schindler so unsparingly denounced by every experienced musician, for foolish and needless alterations in the Choral Symphony on that occasion. So much for purity and the true tradition!

But while no editorship could make of so deficient and prejudiced a sketch as this most delightful of all works, a complete and comprehensive biography, M. Moscheles has, by copious and carefully-selected additions from the publication of Wegeler and Ries, done something towards the illustration of the composer's early days. He has gained the permission of Madame von Arnim (whose pleasant letter of compliance is given) to justify her from the charge of caricaturing her subject, by publishing the correspondence of Beethoven with herself. Other additions, little less valuable, have been made, by which the bulk of printed matter has been doubled—mis-statements corrected, with the same precision as distinguishes the editor in all his musical tasks—and accusations parried in notes of a good-tempered fairness, which is not to be found in the text. With all this, the book remains, and must remain, "a thing of shreds and patches;" and we have stated the fact thus explicitly at the beginning of our notice, to be spared the necessity of having perpetually to distinguish between the author and his editor, in such a brief sketch as we are able to give of the life, manners, and works of one of the most extraordinary geniuses of modern times.

There is always a floating capital of mysterious events and nursery tales relating to the birth and childhood of distinguished men. From this store, many biographers of Beethoven, not content that he should be merely the son of an humble chapel-musician of Bonn, and a mother irreproachable as she was affectionate, have drawn for him a father no less in rank than Frederic the Second of Prussia. This fable, long accepted, is set aside by the registers of Bonn, produced at Beethoven's own request, which announce the composer's more honest parentage, with the date of his birth on the 17th Dec. 1770. From the same authentic source is derived the anecdote of the harmonious spider, which came down its thread to listen to the little Ludwig's violin-playing. He learned something of Latin at a public school: we are not told how he came by that knowledge of the Greek language which made him take to its ancient authors on his death-bed. He was taught music, of course, at home, and the facts of his having further studied the art, under M. Pfeiffer, and Van der Eder, and Neefe, are well known. Probably the manner in which he imbibed knowledge was as little in accordance with the routine of common men, as most of the occurrences of his after-life, or as the first eccentric display of his stubborn and original talent—his throwing out Heller the singer by the excursive modulations of his organ accompaniment to the chant to which the Lamentations of Jeremiah are sung in Passion Week. Too few anecdotes are given of the twenty-two years of his life prior to his establishing himself at Vienna. One group of friends and companions, however, presents itself during his progress from infancy to discretion according to law—the Von Breunings and their circle. In their hospitable house he was an adopted child:

Madame used to chase him thence when the hours appointed for lesson-giving came,—according to her son-in-law, Dr. Wegeler, rallying him, not only on the rhapsodical fits of enthusiasm in which, at times, he indulged, but also on the uncouth and unworlly manners, in which he early seems to have taken a surly pride, perhaps because he knew well he could lay them aside for the performance of the most generous deeds, or the expression of the tenderest sentiments. With Eleanor and Stephen von Breuning, too, he was on the most intimate terms. His first letter from Vienna to the lady offers her a dedication of a piece of music, after some expressions of almost passionate repentance for some fault he had committed towards her, and entreats her to send him an Angola waistcoat, of newer mode than the one she had already knitted for him. From this it would seem, not only that she had appreciated his artistic efforts, but that, like a warm-hearted and nimble-handed *fraulein*, she had cared for his small comforts. In the records which the 'Notizen' of Wegeler supply, we also find notices of other friendships contracted by the young poet at Bonn—of Barbara Koch, afterwards Countess Belderbusch, a woman of rare mental endowments—of Malchus, "afterwards Count of Marienstadt, and a classical writer." Rude and uncomplaining as our hero was—in later days, shrinking from society with a morbid or ferocious reluctance—the pitch of his mind may be argued from these scanty epithets, applied to the only companions of his youth of whom mention is made. Nor less honourable to his taste are the few words which announce to us the name of his first love:—

"This was Mdlle. Jeannette d'Honrath, of Cologne, who often spent some weeks at the residence of the Breunings. She was as fair as lively, engaging and amiable, had a beautiful voice, and delighted in music. She often used to sing, in derision, to our friend, the well-known song:—

What! part with thee this very day?
My heart a thousand times says nay,
And yet I know I must not stay.

The happy rival was Major Greth, of Cologne, who married the fair lady."

The tendency to a morose and irritable suspiciousness—that plague-spot on the happiness of those physically afflicted as Beethoven—tended in part during his after-life to slacken his intimacy with his Bonn friends; but to the last he remembered them affectionately; and in the letters to Wegeler, given in the appendix to the second volume—some of which belong to the period of his age, and distress, and seclusion—he will be found recalling, with all the minute memory of gratitude, kind offices on their part, unprovoked offences on his. Some portions of these we shall presently extract.

M. Schindler mentions in general terms the introduction of Beethoven to the Elector Maximilian Francis, without gracing the barren facts with the trait Dr. Wegeler recalls as belonging to that connexion, and showing his friend to have been already as Quixotically independent, as he was disposed to love and to suspect. He might have told how, when forming a part of the Elector of Cologne's household, the young musician, who had still his fortune to make, chose to keep a servant of his own, "because the Prince had ordered that Beethoven should be first attended to if both rung,—and, on similar grounds of delicacy, a horse!"—facts honourable alike to the patron and the aspirant, yet all too few to allay the eager curiosity which must attach itself to the early days of Genius. We miss from the present collection one letter, by which the anxiety for money which troubled his later years is proved to be an excrescence of age and disease, and not naturally an element in Beethoven's disposition—the one, we mean, pub-

lished among Wegeler's 'Notizen,' in which the young man spoke so nobly of exercising his art for its own sake, and applying its fruits to the relief and aid of others.

A slight notice is given of Beethoven's early intercourse with Haydn, in which the latter does not appear to advantage. While he wished that Beethoven should write on the titles of his early works "*pupil of Haydn*," it seems something remarkable that the author of 'The Creation,' who in his own time had tasted the pleasures and penalties which belong to an innovator, should be so far astray in judgment as not to detect the brilliant, yet sound originality in such a production as the Pianoforte Trio in c minor, which he recommended Beethoven to withhold from the public. But in no reports is truth more garbled than in those describing the meetings of gifted men. How often has a restrained manner passed for jealousy with the by-stander, and the freemasonry of mutual appreciation and good understanding which may exist without a word spoken, been considered as a cabalistic interchange of signs, in themselves unmeaning, and assumed for the purposes of mutual deception! It is known, however, that Beethoven dis-credited Haydn with jealousy on the occasion. We may here add, that no trace is to be found in these memoirs to show that Beethoven, when in his turn an autocrat, was disposed to undervalue the genius, however he might misinterpret the conduct, of his younger brethren in art. Even when Rossini, his opposite, was monopolizing in his own kingdom of Vienna, that popularity so much more justly his own due, the composer of 'Fidelio' could do justice to the easy brilliancy of 'Il Barbiere';—and if a natural touch of bitterness at the remembered failure of his own opera broke out at all, it was only in the form of a postscript to his commendatory remark after inspecting the Italian score: "Rossini would have been a great composer if his master had oftener given him a sound flogging!"

But we are anticipating. It was in 1792, as has been told, that Beethoven fixed himself at Vienna, and began that series of compositions and that ill-regulated life, which, united, separate his life so widely from the lives of all other musicians. Here, as at Bonn, he was presently installed among the choicer spirits of the place, and attached to himself devoted and generous friends. Van Swieten, who, like M. Orfila of Paris, was enthusiastic in his amateurship of music, as well as eminent in medicine, introduced him to the works of Handel, Bach, and Palestrina; he enjoyed the intimacy, as well as patronage, of the Prince and Princess Lichnowsky,—the latter, by birth a Thun, being one of a long line distinguished for intellect and accomplishment:—

"The Prince assigned to him a yearly allowance of six hundred florins, which he was to receive till he should obtain some permanent appointment; and at that time this was no insignificant sum. The kindness of both these princely personages pursued him, as it were, and did not abate even when the adopted son, who was frequently obstinate, would have certainly lost that of any other patrons, and when he had deserved the severest reprehension. It was the princess, in particular, who found all that the often ill-tempered and sullen young man chose to do or to let alone, right, clever, original, amiable,—and who, accordingly, contrived to make excuses for all his peccadilloes to the more rigid prince. At a later period, Beethoven, in describing this mode of treatment, employed the following characteristic expression:—'They would have me brought up there,' said he, 'with grandmotherly fondness, which was carried to such a length that very often the princess was on the point of having a glass shade made to put over me, so that no unworthy person might touch or breathe upon me.'

The following notice of another early friendship, and its scene, is curiously illustrative:—

"Among the professional men whom Beethoven

knew and respected, was M. Schenk, composer of the music to the *Dorfbier*, a man of mild, amiable disposition, and profoundly versed in musical science. M. Schenk one day met Beethoven, when he was coming with his roll of music under his arm from Haydn. Schenk threw his eye over it, and perceived here and there various inaccuracies. He pointed them out to Beethoven, who assured him that Haydn had just corrected that piece. Schenk turned over the leaves, and found the grossest blunders left untouched in the preceding pieces. Beethoven now conceived a suspicion of Haydn, and would have given up taking instructions from him, but was dissuaded from that resolution, till Haydn's second visit to England afforded a fitting occasion for carrying it into effect. * * Owing to Beethoven's unsettled life, it was too frequently the case that for years he knew nothing about intimate friends and acquaintance, though they, like himself, resided within the walls of the great capital; and if they did not occasionally give him a call, to him they were as good as dead. Thus it happened, that one day—it was in the beginning of the spring of 1824—I was walking with him over the Graben, when we met M. Schenk, then far advanced between sixty and seventy. Beethoven, transported with joy to see his old friend still among the living, seized his hand, hastened with him into a neighbouring tavern called the Bugle Horn, and conducted us into a back room, where, as in a catacomb, it was necessary to burn a light even at noon-day. There we shut ourselves in, and Beethoven began to open all the recesses of his heart to his respected corrector. More talkative than he often was, a multitude of stories and anecdotes of long by-gone times presented themselves to his recollection, and among the rest the affair with Haydn; and Beethoven, who had now raised himself to the sovereignty in the realm of music, loaded the modest composer of the *Dorfbier*, who was living in narrow circumstances, with professions of his warmest thanks for the kindness which he had formerly shown him. Their parting, after that memorable hour, as if for life, was deeply affecting; and, in fact, from that day, they never beheld one another again."

Nor did Beethoven's associations with art and nobility shut out the gentler passion: on the contrary, some of his noblest works are homages to the Leonoras, to whom he successively paid suit and service. The 'Pianoforte Sonata quasi Fantasia, No. 1. Op. 27,' a masterpiece of intense melody and consuming passion, is dedicated to one of his empresses—"Madamigella Contessa Giulietta di Guicciardi. To another Cynthia, the Countess Marie Erdödy, are inscribed the two pianoforte trios, opera 70, the first of which is hardly less supreme for the sallies of brilliant and earnest and mysterious imagination it contains; ranking among its composer's poems as high as Lord Byron's 'Sardanapalus' among his dramas:—both the offspring of the same "thoughts and feelings and delights." Other of Beethoven's slighter compositions are to be referred to more ephemeral fancies:—

"Beethoven being in the box of a much esteemed lady during the performance of 'La Molinara,' she said, on hearing the well-known 'Nel cor più,' 'I had some variations on this subject, but have lost them.' Beethoven, the same night, wrote the six Variations on this subject, and the next morning sent them to the lady, writing upon them, 'Variazioni, &c., perdute da —, retrovate da Luigi v. B.' They are so easy, that the lady might well have played them at first sight." WEGELER.

While on this subject we may introduce one of Ries's anecdotes as illustrative of Wegeler's assertion, that the Wild Man of Vienna (thus has Beethoven figured in the pages of many a foolish journalist) was as much the sought as the seeker of the fair sex:—

"One evening, on coming to Baden, to continue my lessons, I found Beethoven sitting on the sofa, a young and handsome lady beside him. Afraid of intruding my presence, which I judged might be unwelcome, I was going to withdraw, but Beethoven prevented me, saying, 'You can play in the mean

time.' He and the lady remained seated behind me. I had been playing for some time, when Beethoven suddenly exclaimed, 'Ries, play us an *Amoroso*;' shortly after, 'a *Malinconico*;' then an '*Appassionato*,' &c. From what I heard I could guess that he had in some way given offence to the lady, and was now trying to make up for it by such whimsical conduct. At last he started up, crying, 'Why that is my own, every bit!' I had all along been playing extracts from his own works, linked together by short transitions, and thus seemed to have pleased him. The lady soon left, and I found to my utter astonishment that Beethoven did not know who she was. I learnt that she had come in shortly before me to make his acquaintance. We followed her steps to discover her residence, and thence her rank; we saw her at a distance, the moon shining brightly, but found that she suddenly disappeared. We extended our walk through the lovely valley for the next hour and a half; on leaving him that night, he said, 'I must find out who she is, and you must help.' I met her a long time afterwards at Vienna, when I discovered her to be the mistress of some foreign prince. I communicated the news to Beethoven, but never heard anything more concerning her, either from him or any one else."

But the fame and the honours and the pleasures which were showered upon him in his new position were all, at an early period of his residence at Vienna, darkened and embittered by the appearance, as it were, of a spectre in the horizon: who ceased not to advance with rapid and inevitable strides,—the victim, meanwhile, never losing the consciousness of his approach. The history of Genius, which records poets straining to keep off the fever of madness, and painters straining their eyes, as if resolution could pierce the incipient film of blindness, contains few more melancholy pages than the following letter

"Beethoven to Wegeler.

"Vienna, June 29, 1806.

"My dear and beloved Wegeler,—A thousand thanks to you for your recollection of me; I have not deserved it; I have not even tried to deserve it; and yet my most unpardonable carelessness cannot check your friendship, which remains pure and unshaken. Do not for a moment think that I could forget you or any of those once so dear to me; there are times when I long for you, when I sincerely wish to stay with you for a while. My country and the charming place which gave me birth are ever before my eyes; their beauty undimmed as when I left them—in short, I shall consider that time the happiest, which leads me back to you all, once more greeting the Rhine in its patriarchal beauty. I cannot tell you when this may be, but thus much I must say to you all, that you shall not see me until I am much greater—not greater only in my art, but better and more perfect as a man; and then, if our country should be more flourishing, I will employ my art for the benefit of the poor only. O blessed moment! how happy do I deem myself that I can call thee forth, that I can myself create thee! * * You wish me to say something of my circumstances; why, they are by no means bad. Lichnowsky, who, improbable as it may seem to you, from the little altercations we have had, but which tended only in confirming our friendship—Lichnowsky, who has always been my warmest patron, has settled upon me the sum of six hundred florins, which I may draw until I find a convenient appointment; my compositions are well paid, and I may say I have more orders than I can well execute; six or seven publishers, and more, being ready to take any of my works: I need no longer submit to being bargained with—I ask my terms, and am paid. You see this is an excellent thing; as, for instance, I see a friend in want, and my purse does not at the moment permit me to assist him; I have but to sit down and write, and my friend is no longer in need. I am grown much more economical too; should I remain here, I think I may rely upon having a day for a concert once a-year. I have already had several. But an evil spirit, in the shape of my bad health, plays me false; my hearing has become weaker and weaker for the last three years, and my constitution has been much weakened by a

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stomach complaint, fearfully increased during my stay here, which is said to be the cause of this evil. Frank wanted to restore my health by tonics, and my hearing by oil of almonds; but, alas! day-day, this was not to be! My hearing remained impaired, my digestion in its former condition; this continued till last autumn, when I was many a time in despair.

A medical practitioner of the genus *ass* advised the cold bath for me; a more rational one ordered me that of the Danube, which is tepid: this did wonders; my general health improved, my hearing continued bad, or became worse. Last winter I was in a wretched state—every ailment returning with renewed force, until about a month ago I went to Vering, judging that my case might require surgical, as well as medical assistance, and having much confidence in his skill. He succeeded in alleviating my sufferings by the use of the tepid bath, into which was poured a strengthening mixture; he gave me no medicine, only four days ago I had some pills, besides a *tea* for my ears, and I may say I feel stronger and better—but my ears! they are ringing and singing night and day. I do think I spend a wretched life; for the last two years shunning all society, because I cannot bring myself to walk up to people and say, '*I am deaf.*' In any other profession this might pass; but in the one I have chosen, it is a wretched plight to be in; besides, my enemies, who are not few in number, what would they say? To give you a notion of this extraordinary deafness, I must tell you that I am forced in a theatre to lean up close to the orchestra in order that I may understand the actor. I do not hear the high notes of instruments or singers at a certain distance, and it is astonishing that there are individuals who never noticed it while conversing with me; from my having been subject to frequent reveries, they attribute my silence to these. I sometimes hear those who speak in a low voice—that is to say, the sounds, but not the words, and yet if any one begins to hawl out, it annoys me extremely. Heaven knows what it may end in!

Vering says I shall certainly be much better, although I may not entirely recover. I have often cursed my existence; Plutarch has won me back to resignation. I will, if possible, defy my fate, although there will be moments when I shall be the most miserable of God's creatures. I beg of you not to mention my affliction to any one—no, not even to Laura. I confide this secret to you only, and should be glad if you would, some day, enter into correspondence upon it with Vering. Should it continue, I shall come to you next spring. You will take a cottage for me in some beautiful spot in the country, and there I shall ruralize for six months; perhaps that may work a change. Resignation! what a miserable resource, and yet it is the only one left me. Do excuse my troubling you with my griefs, when you are already in sorrow yourself."

We cannot break off our notice at such a sad-denying passage as this: and, having once touched the letters of Beethoven, will therefore anticipate an extract, which more properly belongs to the meridian than to the beginning of his career:—

"To Madame von Arnim.

"Toplitz, —1812.

"Dearest, good Bettine,—Kings and princes can indeed create professors and privy councillors, and bestow them with titles and orders; but they cannot make great men—spirits that rise above the world's rubbish—these they must not attempt to create; and therefore must these be held in honour. When two such come together as I and Göthe, these great lords must note what it is that passes for greatness with such as we. Yesterday, as we were returning homewards, we met the whole Imperial family; we saw them coming at some distance, whereupon Göthe disengaged himself from my arm, in order that he might stand aside; in spite of all I could say, I could not bring him a step forwards. I crushed my hat more furiously on my head, buttoned up my top coat, and walked with my arms folded behind me, right through the thickest of the crowd. Princes and officials made a lane for me: Archduke Rudolph took off his hat, the Empress saluted me the first:—these great people know me! It was the greatest fun in the world to me, to see the procession

file past Göthe. He stood aside, with his hat off, bending his head down as low as possible. For this I afterwards called him over the coals properly and without mercy, and brought up against him all his sins, especially those against you dearest, Bettine! We had just been speaking of you. Good God! could I have lived with you for so long a time as he did, believe me I should have produced far, far more great works than I have! A musician is also a poet; a pair of eyes more suddenly transport him too into a fairer world, where mighty spirits meet and play with him, and give him weighty tasks to fulfil. What a variety of things came into my imagination when I first became acquainted with you, during that delicious May-shower in the Usser Observatory, and which to me also was a fertilising one! The most delightful themes stole from your image into my heart, and they shall survive and still delight the world long after Beethoven has ceased to direct. If God bestows on me a year or two more of life, I must again see you dearest, dear Bettine, for the voice within me, which always will be obeyed, says that I must. Love can exist between mind and mind, and I shall now be a woe of yours. Your praise is dearer to me than all other in this world. I expressed to Göthe my opinion as to the manner in which praise affects those like us; and that by those that resemble us we desire to be heard with understanding; emotion belongs to women only (pardon me for saying it): the effect of music on a man should be to strike fire from his soul. Oh, my dearest girl, how long have I known that we are of one mind in all things! the only good is to have near us some fair, pure, spirit, which we can at all times rely upon, and before which no concealment is needed. He who will seem to be somewhat must really be what he would seem. The world must acknowledge him—it is not for ever unjust; although this concerns me in nowise, for I have a higher aim than this. I hope to find at Vienna a letter from you; write to me soon, very soon, and very fully. I shall be there in a week from hence. The court departs to-morrow; there is another performance to-day. The Empress has thoroughly learned her part; the Archduke and the Emperor wished me to perform again some of my own music. I refused them both; they have both fallen in love with Chinese porcelain. This is a case for compassion only, as reason has lost its control; but I will not be piper to such absurd dancing—I will not be comrade in such absurd performances with the fine folks, who are ever sinning in that fashion. Adieu! adieu! dearest; your last letter lay all night on my heart and refreshed me. Musicians take all sorts of liberties! Good Heaven! how I love you!

"Your truest friend, and dear brother,

"BEETHOVEN."

Having read this as a separate fragment, thrown in by way of *bonne bouche*, the reader will please to consider Beethoven as left in the early portion of his Vienna life. There is ample matter for another article on the characteristics and history of the man: the musician is inexhaustible in any limits at our disposal.

Memoirs of the Life of the Rt. Hon. Warren Hastings. By the Rev. G. R. Gleig. Vol. III. Bentley.

WE cannot but believe that this third volume has been hurried out somewhat earlier than was intended. Thus much premised, we proceed, without another word, to report on it.

Although the character of Warren Hastings, as Governor General of India, will not bear the scrutiny of close examination, it would be unjust to throw the entire blame of the mal-practices which he either directed or sanctioned, on the man. He was the administrator of a vicious system, which he probably wanted the will or the power to correct. The nation itself participated in his guilt; selfishness, and that too of the most short-sighted character, was the principle of public policy in his day. It was believed that India possessed enormous wealth, and that by some mysterious process the English nation could obtain possession of this wealth

without giving anything in exchange. As the nation did not realize its golden dreams, men suspected that the streams of Indian riches had been diverted into other channels, and they eagerly sought out some one on whom they might lay the blame of their frustrated hopes. The cant of the day was, that all our external relations should be directed "to the promotion of British objects," and some of these objects were so exclusively British, that no other nation would have deemed them worthy of one moment's attention.

On his return to Europe Mr. Hastings found everything seeming to promise him a life of honour and repose. He had, indeed, so little reason to apprehend that a perilous trial was impending, that he directed his attention to the promotion of Sanscrit literature, and he took a very honourable part in revealing to Europe the first glimpses of Indian philosophy and poetry, by procuring the patronage of the Court of Directors for the translation of the Bhagavad Gheeta, by the late Sir Charles Wilkins. His account of his first reception in England will be read with some interest, when we reflect how soon a dark cloud came over the bright prospects that appeared to open before him:—

"I did not tell you that I was early summoned to receive the thanks of the Directors for my services, and the chairman who read them dwelt with a strong emphasis on the word *unanimously*. From the King and Queen my reception was most gracious. The Board of Control has been more than polite to me, for they have quoted me as authority, and so have the Court of Directors—both a little more than I like, and in a way that I dislike. My friends expected more, but I can almost assure you that I have received the full recompense of all my services, and I am thankful for it; for the King cannot bestow any honour superior to a good name; and with a larger income I should lose what my present will compel me to—retirement. No, I have not said all. Lord Thurlow has been more substantially my friend than King, Ministers, and Directors. Tell Wilkins that his Gheeta is printed, presented to the King, and published. Mr. Smith inspected the press, and zealously promoted my application for the patronage of the Court of Directors, by whose authority it was printed. I have yet but one copy, but I believe that some will be sent for his use. I don't know how the public will relish it. If it is abused, Wilkins has a good shelter by standing behind me."

So confident were the friends of Mr. Hastings in the justice of their cause, or in the support of the ministry, that they taunted Burke with his delay in bringing forward the threatened charges. Mr. Pitt still further misled them by resisting the motion for the production of papers, and joining in a vote "that the conduct of the Governor General in the Rohilla war was not deserving of censure." Great, therefore, was their astonishment, when he joined the prosecutors on the Benares charge, with all the weight of his authority and his eloquence:—

"I have no language in which to describe the surprise and disappointment, and in many instances the indignation, with which the announcement of this proceeding on the part of Mr. Pitt was greeted. The personal friends of Mr. Hastings were of course furious in the extreme. They asserted that they were betrayed; inveighed against the minister for deceiving them, and appealed to the country, through the medium of the press, against so foul a conspiracy. Neither were the members of the Cabinet itself unanimous in supporting its chief, either in the act which he had perpetrated, or the grounds on which he rested it. Lord Thurlow, in particular, openly denounced them both, making use, among other expressions, of this, that 'if a girl had talked law in such terms, she would have been without excuse.'"

Many years afterwards, a little before his death, Mr. Hastings communicated to his friend, Mr. Impey, an anecdote connected with this change in the policy of ministers, for the authenticity of which he vouches in the strongest terms:

"Previous to the day on which the article of Benares was debated, the ministerial members had received instructions to give their votes against it. At an early hour of that morning, Mr. Dundas called on Mr. Pitt, awoke him from his sleep, and engaged him in a contest of three hours duration, which ended in an inversion of the ministerial question; of which it was my chance to be apprised the same morning. The fact has appeared in print, the change of votes is an attestation of it, one member only, Lord Mulgrave, refusing to submit to so base a prostitution of his word."

Of the subsequent trial it is not our purpose to speak; we have already recorded our opinion that the prosecutors ruined their case by overstating it; they overlaid it with eloquence: like the princess in the fairy-tale, it was smothered by flowers. After it was concluded, Mr. Hastings retired into private life, and was deservedly the delight of the circle of friends which surrounded him. A better proof of his good sense and good nature could scarcely be given than the following extract from a letter addressed to his friend, Mr. Thompson, on his marriage in India:—

"My dear young friend, you are now on the eve of a great change which is to give the colour to all your future life; and that will depend entirely on the manner in which you enter upon it. For God's sake avoid one rock on which many young families have struck, and have been wrecked. Avoid entertainments: keep no table; and that you may avoid the obligation of returning invitations, accept of none, but from persons so much your superiors in age and standing as not to expect it; and firmly and intrepidly persevere in this cautionary rule, till your station, or situation in the service, shall exempt you from the observance of it. Upon this point, and upon every occasion in which you shall be called upon to determine upon your own line of conduct, first deliberately and dispassionately ask yourself what you ought to do; and when you have received the answer which your reason has dictated, make that answer your law, and never depart from it, whatever censures, sneers, or temptations may provoke or attempt to seduce you to depart from it. Be the slave of fashion in indifferent matters; but be your own master and independent in all such as may affect your moral character, or influence either your own happiness, or (which indeed is yours) the happiness of your family.

"I intended, when I began the foregoing paragraph, to confine my advice to one single and practical point. In attempting to enforce it by a general principle, I have imperceptibly extended it to an universal maxim. It is, however, the only one on which a true manly character can be built: but I revert to that with which I commenced, conjuring you to practise it, by all your hopes of returning to your country in time to bless the latter lives of your beloved and most affectionate parents; and to perform those other duties which will be required with a growing family, and which no parent ought to abandon to another, who can perform them himself."

Scarcely less instructive is the following advice given to a son of one of his friends who was a student at Haileybury College:—

"This suggests to me a subject on which I have had it some time in my mind to write to you. I believe I have not troubled you much (did I ever?) with advice. In the first place, I have thought you possessed so correct a mind as to be able to direct and control your own actions; and in the second, I have observed, that at your age advice is not always welcome, even when given with the kindest intentions and from the most experienced judgment. Mine is directed more to the place where you are than to yourself. I have heard of parties having been formed in the college against the authority of the masters, and that they have even proceeded to open violence. Upon such occasions it is a common trick of the leaders to preach to their followers the doctrine of public spirit, and to brand with meanness every one who will not join them and go the lengths that they do. As you value your future character, and hopes of success in life, my dear Johnny, shun

all such detestable cabals, and repel with firmness every advance made to you to poison your mind with their corrupt principles. In the service to which you are destined, you may hope to rise to situations of the highest authority. Begin early, by the practice of obedience where it is now due, to qualify and entitle yourself to the obedience of others, whose services may be necessary hereafter to your prosperity. Mr. Lendon delighted me in one of his letters, by telling me, that 'his boys looked up to you.' Be looked up to where you now are, and wherever you are hereafter. Disdain to be the tool of any one: be not a follower even of the wisest and the best: but do what is right from the impulse of your own judgment, not the example of others. In a word, maintain the character given of you by Mr. Lendon. Be looked up to, and acquire that eminent distinction by example and conciliation. This is a word not commonly addressed to a boy of fifteen; but you have been in the practice of the sense which it implies, and I trust therefore that you will thoroughly comprehend it."

On the formation of the Grenville administration, Mr. Hastings expressed a wish to enter once again into public life, and reminded the Prince Regent, personally, of a sort of hope once held out to him, of reparation from the Commons and a Peerage. The negotiation failed; indeed, it is hardly possible to conceive how it could have terminated differently, without a sacrifice of character on one side or the other. Mr. Hastings's parting words to Lord Moira are thus recorded in his journal:—

"My Lord, I never will receive a favour without an acknowledgment, much less will I accept a favour from men who have done me great personal wrongs, though the act so construed should be the result of their submission to a different consideration. I beg, my Lord, that the affair may go no farther. I am content to go down to the grave with the plain name of Warren Hastings, and should be made miserable by a title obtained by such means as should sink me in my own estimation."

Though reduced to act the part of a mere spectator, Mr. Hastings appears to have felt a lively interest in public affairs, and to have adopted what is now called the "liberal side" in politics. The following extract well proves that he escaped the national delirium, so general when the battle of Waterloo brought the continental war to a prosperous conclusion:—

"I do not like the aspect of public affairs, but derive more than adequate compensation from the vast superiority of comparative credit which the French themselves attribute to our countrymen, in the sufferings entailed upon them by the sovereigns and soldiers of the combined armies. I view with the same sensations as you do, the miraculous transformation of the beautiful island of St. Helena, which used to afford us so much enjoyment, converted into a state prison of a deposed emperor. I am sorry for its degradation, and more so to contemplate the British nation in the character of the jailer of Europe, which is established by this, her second appearance in that relation. By what means, in the latent operations of God's providence, the deliverance of Bonaparte from this sequestration is to be effected, I have not the slightest conception."

The volume before us is not rich in anecdote: one of the most interesting, and at the same time the least known, is an account of a meeting between Hastings and Sheridan, brought about by the Prince Regent:—

"It happened about the year 1810 that Mr. Hastings, being on a visit at Newark Park, the residence of Sir Elijah Impey, received an invitation from the Prince Regent, then at Brighton, to dine with his Royal Highness in the Pavilion. Mr. Hastings went, Sir Elijah and his son bearing him company; and all three were a good deal surprised to find that Mr. Sheridan had been especially brought thither to meet them. The object which the Prince had in view was, doubtless, laudable. He was anxious that between Mr. Hastings and Mr. Sheridan—not the least violent of the violent men who acted as managers during the impeachment—a good understanding should arise, and he brought

them together under the idea that, through his personal influence, they might become reconciled. Mr. Sheridan accordingly advanced, at a given signal from his royal host, and in some well-turned sentences delivered himself of an apology, which amounted to this:—'that the part which he had taken in events long gone by must not be regarded as any test of his private opinions, because he was then a public pleader, whose duty it is, under all circumstances, to make good, if he can, the charges which he is commissioned to bring forward.' Mr. Hastings retreated one step, looked Mr. Sheridan full in the face, made a low bow, but answered not a word. 'Had Mr. Sheridan,' said he, after the party returned to Newark Park, 'confessed as much twenty years ago, he might have done me some service.' No further intercourse, however, took place between the parties, nor was the subject ever again by Mr. Hastings referred to."

In forming an estimate of the character of Warren Hastings it is necessary to draw a wide distinction between the Governor General and the man; as ruler of India the best that his friends can say of him is, "*Magnum virum facile dixeris, bonum libenter*;" in his private life the sentence may be directly reversed, for he everywhere evinced his goodness, but had no opportunity of manifesting his greatness. His correspondence, unaccompanied by the eulogies of a biographer, would have been his most appropriate monument, for whether his conduct be viewed with approbation or censure, it must be estimated by a higher moral standard than that which is derived from the canons of political party.

Ethelstan; or, the Battle of Brunanburh: a Dramatic Chronicle, in Five Acts. By Geo. Darley. Moxon.

JUDGMENT becomes jealous, and concession chary, in proportion as admiration is honest and esteem warm. Thus, as there is clear evidence of strength, imagination, and genius in all that Mr. Darley writes,—as he is one of the few original minds belonging to a monotonous and barren time, no essay of his can be dismissed with the common-places which await common-place; he must rest content to be shown where Strength, instead of conducting onwards a noble idea to perfect development, entangles it among manifold coils, which weaken rather than support it: he must, too, with his affluence of poetic fancy and sweetness of diction, be held accountable for all the imaginative conceits and affectations, whether dainty or rugged, which mar the symmetry and music of his verse. These allowed for, there will still remain so much of power and poetry as, parcelled out, would set up a round half-dozen of those among us possessing a fair renown as versifiers and dramatists.

Were justification needed for abiding by the unchangeable principles of criticism, as distinguished from mere laudation, it might be found in the results of a comparison between 'Ethelstan' and 'Becket.' Though the latter—from the greater number of its characters and the alternation of its scenes between Rosamond's Bower and Canterbury Minister—have more variety, the former has fewer blemishes; if there be more fantasy in 'Becket,' there is more force in 'Ethelstan.' The story of 'Ethelstan' is best announced by its poet's significant preface.

"These hands, unskilful as they are, (says Mr. Darley) would fain build up a Cairn, or rude national monument, on some eminence of our Poetic Mountain, to a few amongst the many Heroes of our race, sleeping even yet with no memorial there, or hid hidden beneath the moss of ages. 'Ethelstan' is the second stone, 'Becket' was the first, borne thither by me for this homely pyramid; to rear it may be above my powers, but were it a mere mound of rubbish, it might remain untrampled and unscorned, from the sacredness of its purpose. * * * Englishmen feel at length some pride in their Saxon ancestors. Surely

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a nobler people never existed! By them were the great Tables of Constitutional Law rough-hewn and engraved; by them was Civil Freedom first established; and not for themselves alone, but all nations, as each has or shall become fit to receive it. I have sought to portray this people in one of its best Representatives—steady-hearted, high-souled, strong of will and of mind, yet soft through his affections. Strange prejudice! that the proverbial valour of a nation which has won the title of 'War-smiths,' should have been rated beneath the Norman from a single ill-judged trial; ignorant prejudice, moreover, that the same nation is pronounced blockish and un-imaginative, despite its wonderful Poems still before us, and its hundred and thirty-six different species of rhyme (alliterative or other);—nay, pronounced incapable of Music, though as much given to it and gifted in it as even their German brethren are now! The Saxon Ode on Brunanburh Battle has always 'moved my heart more than a trumpet!' That was the hardest-fought field, say our Chronicles, before Hastings, and all but as momentous in its political consequences. I have gladly seized the subordinate fact of King Ethelstan's seven years' penitence for his Brother's death, towards gaining domestic interest, far dearer than political to most hearts. Anlaf's picturesque adventure at the Saxon camp, and his more picturesque retinue,—the Sea-kings, or prince-pirates of Scandinavia,—gave occasion to sketch that people also, from whom we, as part Danish, have derived, perhaps, much of our enterprising character, as well as the daring and wild sublimity which distinguishes our poetic genius. For my own admiration of this, let me plead that of Milton, several amongst whose noblest images are taken from the Edda."

The employment of the seven years' penitence thus selected, is in part successful, as affording repose, and appealing to a larger sympathy than is awakened by mere political events. This we shall presently have occasion to illustrate by a scene, in which the conscience-stricken monarch, after long years of separation, meets once more his sister, the meek Abbess of Beverley. In another of its developements, however, it leads to the cardinal defect of the Chronicle,—the character of the revenge of the maiden Ellisif, who, betrothed to the murdered brother of the monarch, applies herself to the ruin of the latter, with the subtlety of a woman and the hatred of a fiend. The means employed are beneath the dignity of poetry. She presents herself to the reader in the palpable form of one enacting a ghost; and hence the throes and agonies she excites in the King become only one degree more impressive than the terrors of the village girl frightened by a chalked face and white sheet. It is a trick belonging to a class of artifices to which Mr. Darley will have less and less recourse in every subsequent addition to his poetical Cairn. So, too, in future Chronicles, we shall find fewer such strange epithets as "the still-hiccuping swallow"—"their wrizzled throats" (applied to serpents)—"the gurliest sea"—and others of a like character.

It would require more space than we can spare from extract, to trace out point by point the incidents of this dramatic Chronicle. Mr. Darley has already indicated the master-interests of his story; and we may, therefore, now indulge ourselves in pointing to some of the beautiful things it contains. First in our favour come the pair to which we have adverted—the King and the Abbess: they remind us, by their antique simplicity and feeling, of the tranquil, but not passionless effigies which touch the haunter of our elder sacred edifices, by the serenity or severity of their repose.

Scene, a small Cabinet.

Ethelstan in sackcloth, at an oaken table.

Enter Edgitha.

Ethel. My sister! my born friend! [Embracing her.

Why at this hour,

When none save Night's rough minions venture forth,

Why thy pale health so bold?

Edgitha. Is there no flush

Breathes my cheek?—that's health! new life, my brother!

Which joy to see thee brings. But out, alas!

What change in thee, what mournful change?

Ethel.

Edgitha. Nay, thou'rt, if not in bloomiest youth's spring-tide,

Yet in its autumn.

Ethel.

Autumn is ever sore!

Youth saddens near its ending, like Old Age;—

Or worse,—for this hath better life at hand.

Edgitha. No! no! that is not it—that is not it!

Ethel. And then bothink thee, Silthric's widow-queen,

Kings wear not, like the peacocks, feathered crowns;

Our goldenest have some iron in them too!

Edgitha. Ah! wouldst thou take meek sample from so many

Of our wise Saxon kings; who gave up power

Without a sigh to those who still sigh'd for it;

And changed their glittering robes with russet weeds,

And turn'd their sceptres into crucifixes,

And bared their heads of all but tinselled crowns,

And lived out hermit lives in mossy cells,

Or died at Rome on saintly pilgrimages:

Were they not wise?

Ethel.

Edgitha. Then wherefore not thou for thyself as well?

Wherefore, in thy loved town of Beverley,

Under thy patron saint, canonized John,

As servant dedicate through him to heaven,

Seek not thy temporal rest and peace eterne?

Wherefore withdraw not from the thorny ways

And unclaimable wilderness of this world?

To the smooth-marbled aisle and cloister trim

Beside us; to these gardens, paced by foms

Bland-whispering as their trees, and moving round

Each shrub they tend, softly as its own shadow?

Wherefore retire thee not, wouldst thou enjoy

Calm raptures of ecstatic contemplation,

To yon elm-pillard avenue, sky roof'd,

That leads from Minster Church to Monastery,

Both by thyself embosomed, as if

But for thyself? Nothing disturbeth there

Save the grand hum of the organ heard within,

Or murmuring chorals that with faint low chime

Tremble to lift their voices up o'erhugh

Even in God's praises?—Here find happiness,

Here make thy quietury! as thy Sister

Once queen, hath done. Wherefore not, thou and she,

Abbot and Abbess, side by side, return

To old companionship of innocence,

Our hearts re-purified at the altar's flame:

And thus let second childhood lead us, lovingly

As did the first, adown life's gentle slope,

To our unrocking cradle—one same grave?

Ethel. I could, even now, sleep to the lullaby

Sung by Death's gossip, that assiduous crone,

Who hushes all our race!—If one hope fail,

One single, life-endearing hope—

Edgitha.

Dear brother,

Take hope from my content!—though pale this brow,

Thy calm as if she smiled on it, yon Prioresse

Of Heaven's pure Nunnery, whose placid cheer

O'erlooks the world beneath her; this wren's voice,

Though weak, preserveth lightsome tone and tenor,

Ne'er sick with joy like the still-hiccuping swallow's,

Ne'er like the nightingale's with grief. Believe me

Seculsion is the blesseddest estate.

Life own; wouldst be among the blest on earth,

Hie thither!

Ethel. Ay—and what are my poor Saxons

To do without their king?—

Edgitha.

Have they not thanes

And chiefs?—

Ethel. Without their father? their defender?

Now specially when rumours of the Dane

Borne hither by each chill Norwegian wind,

Like evening thunder creep along the ocean

With many a muttered threat of morrow dire?

No! no! I must not now desert my Saxons,

Who ne'er deserted me!

Edgitha.

Is there none else

To king it?

Ethel. None save the Etheling should; he cannot:

Child Edmund is o'er-green in wit; though premature

Of arms, and practice of all manlike feats,—

Which his bent towards them makes continual,

As young hawks love to use their beaks and wings

In coursing sparrows ere let loose at herons,—

Grown his full pitch of stature. Ah! dear Sister,

Thy choice and lot with thy life's duties chime,

All cast for privacy. So best!—our world

Hath need of such as thee and thy fair nuns,

And these good fathers of the monastery.

To teach youth, tend the poor, the sick, the sad,

Relume the extinguish'd lights of ancient lore,

Making each little cell a glorious lantern

To beam forth truth o'er our benighted age,—

With other functions high, how'er so humble,

Which I disparage not! But, dearest Sister,

Even the care of our own soul becomes

A sin—base selfishness—when we neglect

All care for others; and self-love too oft

Is the dark shape in which the Devil haunts

Nunneries, monkeries, and most privacies,

Where your devout recluse, devoted less

To God than self, works for his single weal;

When like that God he should, true Catholic,

Advance the universal where he may.

* * *

You see this penitential garb,

Yet call me best of men?

Edgitha.

It has been worn

Long, long enow! 'Tis time it were put off.

Ethel. How soon will he put off his wretched shroud?

O Edgitha!

Edgitha.

Pour all into my breast!

Thine is o'erflowing!

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Years! years!

But the Storm-King whirl'd him in a wreath,
Where he lies as stark as his shaft in the sheath!
Here is your lance—and target—

But my gloves?
Until my hands be rough-shod, all slips from them;
My gloves, sweet Armourer!

Run. Not yet—not yet—
Ere they be on thou must in turn arm me.
Fer. These? thee?—O madness! thou arm for the battle?

A mere slight girl! whole winters yet from womanhood!
Run. Nay, martial air, thou'rt but a dripping too!—
Come, arm me!—Am I not thine to death?

Fer. What are these little moulds of panoply
Thou lay'st before me,—hauberk, helm, and greave?—
Pity, O pity, do not put them on!

Run. (chants as she arms).
Then Odin's dark Daughters rode over the plain,
Chiding on the slow slaughter and chusing the slain!
Cries Gondula, fixing her smile on the fight,
'Tis to join hands in the Hall of Dead Heroes to-night!

Fer. Look at this toy of helmets!—'Tis too thin,
Too frail, to bear the stroke of Mercy's sword.
Though that mild chasterer would warn, not harm thee!
What's here?

Run. My brand!
Fer. O heaven, 'tis scarce a dagger

To fence away the fate those Saxon deathsmen
Deal with two-handed glaives!—Here is a target!
One spangle on huge Turke's shield! fit thing
To breast the shock of bucklers, when together
Ranks fall like walls in earthquakes, and at once
Rises the hill of ruin!—Here, look here,
A wrist to stem that mighty brunt!—brave wrist!
Thick as a swan's neck, and as white and bendable!
Why, in his steely embrace, War's softest pressure
Would crush thy soul out!

Run. Wert thou half as safe!
This armour, Dwarfs in Hecia's smithy forged:
See! the lines graven round it all are Runes—
Mystic inscriptions, full of wizard power
To ward off ill: I am not vulnerable,
Except by grief!—My soul is very sad!—
What sound is that without?

Fer. Trampling of steeds.
Run.

Why doth the Night-mare whinny so loud?
Her heavy knee trample the ground one deeper!
Her flurried black mane like a thunder-cloud
Flickers forth serpents of fire o'er the sleeper!
How he writhes him beneath her,
The blue flame breather!
And his eyes wild staring
At hers wilder glaring!

Mark how they glow in their sockets without flashes,
Two gray bale-fires moulder in their ashes!

Fer. Cease!—No death-cry terrible as this!
Hear you that signal? (A low woe-whistle without.)

Run. It thrills through my marrow!
Fer. And my glad heart—if thou wouldst but stay here!—
Come, since it must be so!

Run. Ay, with my harp!
See how I fling it gallant o'er my shoulder,
As if we tripp'd to banquet!—So we do!
The banquet of the eagle and the raven,
Where they shall have their glut!—Come, my sweet harp,
Echo the warrior's shout and drown his wail
And chant his death-song!—Come, to battle! battle!

[Exeunt.]

There remain behind yet finer scenes than
these, but spreading over too wide a surface to
be quoted. With a few scattered gems we shall
conclude our notice:—

Fool! I mean not
O no! the miserable day we live
There's many a better thing to do than die!

... His natural mood
Is gentleness, which sorrow hath made gentler;
But stir him not, O wake not for thy soul
The anger of a gentle-hearted man!
'Tis like the summer-thunder, fearfulest,
Because from heaven's perturbed cloud forced out.

... Ah! sceptred Beauty,
Queen even of kings, and Conqueress! but not yet
Imperial quite, until the heaven-dropp'd orb
Of genius crown thee!—then, omnipotent!

I know a mossy nook the sun-bred winds
Visit on wing, like swallows when they cheer
Their nestlings with sweet play; it is as warm
As Love's breath makes his arbor: from that promontory
Where Humber writhes his serpent head to sea,
This cave looks forth; and o'er the broadening ooze,
Its chalky brows, that gleam against the sun,
Beacon the wanderers of the elements
Thither for refuge.

... I speak
Now with a voice authentic as the dead
Whose fixed features can mask truth no more!
Temperate, tongue-charitable, was I ever;
To bear false witness now, were at heaven's gate
To fling a broken tablet of the Law,
Yet think to enter!

Of nine accomplishments I am full master;
In the Norse warrior's circle of the arts.
Am perfect: As bow, battle-axe, and brand,
None can approach my skill; being ambidexter,
I with two javelins take two lives at once;
I play at chess well, besides other games,

As tossing up three darts, two kept in air,
One in the hand; I swim shark-swift; I skate
Over earth's broadest bridge, the Arctic ice,
Fast as the north wind; I could ride the Nightmare
Even in her wildest rage, and shoe her after
Like your most cunning War-smith: I can row
Sleeker than swallow skins, and round my boat
Run outside on the slippery oars at play:
What think'st of Gora the Sea-king, now?

We know not what modern dramatic mine
could yield up fragments of more precious ore
than these.

*The Art of Engraving, with the various Modes
of Operation.* By T. H. Fielding. Ackerm-
mann & Co.

THIS short treatise, on the different modes of
engraving now in use, includes useful directions
to the student and professor in each department
of the art,—as to the manner of operation,
mixing of the chemical substances required for
its various processes, and choice and use of his
instruments; and is introduced by a rapid sketch
of the History of the Invention of Engraving.
That the introduction of metal plates was long
preceded by the printing from wooden blocks is
the only part of the subject which can be stated
with any certainty: the precise time at which
either of these methods commenced, as well as
the country in which the practice of wood-engrav-
ing first arose, are matters involved in considerable
obscurity, and surrounded by many contradic-
tory arguments and statements. The author
gives a short summary of the principal points of
the discussion; but the subject was treated by
ourselves at far greater length in our review of
Mr. Jackson's Treatise on Wood-Engraving,
(Nos. 601-2-3). The following speculation,
however, which derives the early practice of
engraving on metal immediately from another
source than that of wood engraving, (though the
latter must have led to it, in any case,) is interest-
ing:—

"The transition from engraving on wood to some-
thing competent to bear a higher degree of finish, as
metal plates, would the more readily suggest itself,
as the same change had just been made from wooden
blocks to metal types for letter-press printing; but
Vasari attributes engraving on metal to a different
class of artists, the workers in niello, or inlaid model-
ling work, a very ancient art used for ornamenting
every kind of table utensils, household furniture,
hilts of swords, silver vessels for sacred and other
uses. This art consisted in cutting the required
subject or picture in silver, and filling up the incisions
with a mixture of silver and lead, which, from its
dark colour, was called *nigellum*, abbreviated into
niello, producing a regular effect of chiaro-scuro in
the work. From these engravings the artists were in
the habit of taking impressions by smoking them,
and then, after cleaning the smooth surface with oil,
impressing upon the work a damp paper: this was
often done with sulphur or fine earth, but the proofs
on paper soon became the favourite process, and ulti-
mately led to the invention and use of metal plates,
as copper, &c.; and this again was followed by the
introduction of the copper-plate printing press; for
which, as well as the typographical printing press,
we are indebted to the Germans. Thus it seems
tolerably clear, that the art of engraving with the
burin, or as it is now called Line Engraving, owes its
origin to the workshops of the gold and silver-smiths,
for many proofs on paper taken from the works in
niello are existing in the Italian collections of art,
especially in the Durazzo collection and the ancient
Gadi gallery at Florence, and as Lanzi says 'may be
particularly known from the position of the letters,
which being written on the models in the ordinary
way appear in the impressions from right to left, and
in like manner the other parts of the impression are
seen in reverse; for example, a principal figure, as a
saint, stands to the left, when by his dignity he should
have stood to the right; and all the actors write,
play, &c., with the left hand instead of the right.'
Among the earliest books to be found ornamented
with prints taken from metal plates, and which may
be esteemed as the most celebrated, are the 'Monte
di Deo' and the 'Commedia di Dante,' both printed

at Florence; also the two editions of Ptolemy's Geo-
graphy, printed at Rome and Bologna, to which may
be added the Geography of Berlinghieri, printed at
Florence, all ornamented with prints by artists whose
names are not known. This state of the art was
soon altered, and the copper-plate engravers, entirely
separating themselves from the goldsmiths and other
chasers of metals, opened regular studios, placed
their names to their works, took pupils, and became
altogether a new body."

Etching, in its various applications—to metal,
glass, and on what is called "soft ground," now
superseded by lithography—Line Engraving in
all its parts—Aquatint—Mezzotint (with print-
ing in colours)—Chalk and Stipple—and Wood
Engraving (including Mr. Hancock's method)—
Lithography and Zincography—Medallie En-
graving, with the apparatus of Mr. Bate and M.
Collas—and the new arts of Electrography and
Photography, are all historically treated in few
words, and described at length. Some remarks
on the prodigious impulse given to line engrav-
ing, by the first use of steel plates, and the mis-
chief which has resulted to Art, are worth ex-
tracting:—

"The evils arising from engraving on steel, if it
were merely a stagnation arising from too great a
production, however much we might regret the loss
which line engravers must for a while sustain, still
we know that a few years must bring back the art to
a more healthy state. But when the hardness of the
metal was found to admit of finer work, then came in
fashion the excessively finished style of the present
day, which, whilst it increases the mechanical diffi-
culties, tends to reduce all engravers to the same
level, or what is still worse, allows some whose only
merit consists in a capability of laying lines closer
than others, to usurp the place of real talent. This
is indeed an evil, and we are afraid that many years
must pass away before the vitiated taste of the public
can bear the works of real genius, unfettered by the
microscopic finish of the present style."

The following account of the process and history
of Lithography, is a good example of the
author's manner,—which is clear and unencum-
bered,—and well adapted, from its simplicity, to
convey information:—

"The process of lithography depends on the facili-
ty with which some kinds of stone absorb either
grease or water, and on the natural antipathy which
grease and water have for each other. An even sur-
face having been given to the stone, a drawing is
made upon it with a greasy chalk. The stone is then
wet, and the printer passes over it a roller covered
with printing ink, which adheres to those parts only
which are drawn upon with the chalk; a damp paper
is then pressed upon it, and receives an impression of
the drawing. Lithography was accidentally dis-
covered about the year 1792 by Alois Senefelder, the
son of a performer at the Theatre Royal of Munich.
He was a student of law at the university of Ingol-
stadt, and after his father's death tried a theatrical
life, but without success. He then became an author,
but being too poor to publish his work, tried various
methods of writing on copper in order that he might
print them himself, and soon found that a composi-
tion of soap, wax, and lamp-black formed an excel-
lent material for writing, capable, when dry, of resisting
aquafortis. To obtain facility in writing backwards,
as copper was too expensive, he procured some pieces
of calcareous stone, which when polished served him
to practise upon. His mother having one day de-
sired him to take an account of some linen she was
sending to be washed, he wrote it out on a piece of
this stone with his composition of soap and wax. It
afterwards occurred to him, that by corroding the
surface with acid the letters would stand out in relief,
and admit of impressions being taken from them. He
tried the experiment and succeeded, and soon
found that it was not absolutely necessary to lower
the surface of the stone, but that simply wetting it
was sufficient to prevent the printing ink from ad-
hering to any parts except those which were marked
with the composition. Such was the invention of
lithography, and Senefelder continued to pay un-
derstanding attention to the improvement of the art. In
1796 pieces of music were printed, and it was perhaps

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the first time that lithography became of real use. The difficulty of writing backwards brought about the invention of the transfer paper. In 1799 Senefelder took out a patent at Munich, and soon after entered into partnership with a Mr. André Offenbach, who proposed to establish presses and take out patents in London, Paris, and Vienna. He came to London in 1801, with a brother of Mr. Offenbach, and communicated the new art, then called polyautography, to many of our best English artists, who tried it; but the continual failures through want of skill in the printing, and the difference between German and English materials, caused it to be abandoned. Having separated from Mr. André, Senefelder went to Vienna, where he tried to apply lithography to the printing of cottons, but apparently without success, and he returned to Munich in 1806, in which year the professor of drawing at the public school at Munich, Mr. Mitterer, succeeded in multiplying copies of his drawings for his pupils by lithography. He is also said to have invented the composition for chalk as now made. In 1809 we find Senefelder inspector of the royal lithographic establishment at Munich, and engaged in printing a map of Bavaria, and soon after invented the stone paper, which, however, did not succeed: it was exhibited in 1823 at London, by a partner of Senefelder, but its liability to crack by being wet and the pressure of the press, rendered it useless. Little was done in England after 1806, till its revival in 1817, since which time it has been gradually improving, till lately it has acquired still greater powers by the means of employing a second stone, by which is obtained a perfect imitation of drawings made on tinted paper, having the lights laid on with white.

The processes in Electrography, Photography, and Medallion Engraving, are all described by Mr. Fielding, briefly but clearly; and we can recommend his volume as a useful hand-book, much wanted by artists and the public.

Two Years before the Mast. Moxon.

A very pleasant, because a very simple narrative of the Life of a Common Sailor. Nineteenth of our sea novels are mere exaggerated caricatures—sketches from the filthy suburbs of our seaport towns; and the best of them have been written by officers in Her Majesty's service, and were therefore founded on observation and conjecture; whereas, in the volume before us, we have a voice from the fore-castle—a faithful, simple record of the thoughts, feelings, enjoyments and sufferings of a common sailor. As the writer himself observes,—

"The whole course of life, and daily duties, the discipline, habits and customs of a man-of-war are very different from those of the merchant service; and in the next place, however entertaining, and well-written these books may be, and however accurately they may give sea-life as it appears to their authors, it must still be plain to every one that a naval officer, who goes to sea as a gentleman, 'with his gloves on,' (as the phrase is,) and who associates only with his fellow-officers, and hardly speaks to a sailor except through a boatswain's mate, must take a very different view of the whole matter from that which would be taken by a common sailor."

An advertisement prefixed to the edition before us, states that—

"The publisher has been induced to bring this American work before the English Public from the favourable opinion entertained of it by officers of old standing in the British Navy. Those professional judges of its merit saw in the various details of its simple narrative conclusive internal evidence of its authenticity, which has been fully ascertained from other sources. They were also persuaded that an extended circulation of this little book might have wholesome effects among seamen in general, and the many who regard their welfare. That valuable class of men have been not a little misrepresented in works which have professed to describe their language, manners, and habits. They are here portrayed in their real colours and proportions, without embellishment or distortion. The readers of this volume will naturally desire to know something of the subsequent fortunes of its estimable writer; but the Editor feels

that it would not be right or fair to extend the liberty that has been taken with his work to an unauthorised intrusion upon that privacy within which he has thought fit to remain, and the limits of which he alone can becomingly determine."

There is a little mystification here, the purport of which we do not understand. We quite agree that it would not be right to publish the name of the writer had he sought to conceal it—but, so far is he from manifesting such a wish, that his initials 'R. H. D. Jun.' are affixed to the work, and the American journals have never hesitated to speak of it as written by Mr. Dana, the son of the Poet; and we see no reason, therefore, why we may not gratify our countrymen, if there be any curious on such a point, and do public justice to the fine humanity and manly spirit of the writer. Besides, the fact is interesting in another point of view. The story told by young Dana himself, is briefly this. While a student at the University, his eyes became so weak, that the physicians despaired of a cure, without a total abandonment of books and studies, and an entire change of life; and it was in consequence that he resolved to embark as a sailor, and thus put himself beyond the reach of temptation. Now all this we have no doubt is true enough; but why of all the courses that suggested themselves should he take to the sea?—why, the sea being determined on, should he embark on board a merchantman bound for the Pacific and the western coast of America—with Cape Horn as an introduction to beach-combing, hide-curing, and other unromantic realities? It is to us somewhat more than probable, that his father's fine poem 'The Buccaneer' may have had its unknown influences in deciding these questions; and therefore it is a fact that ought to be known, as illustrating character, that the writer is the son of Dana the poet.

The first glimpse on board, is a picture in little, and a pleasant specimen of the writer's easy and familiar style:—

"The change from the tight dress coat, silk cap, and kid gloves of an undergraduate at Cambridge, to the loose duck trousers, checked shirt, and tarpaulin hat of a sailor, though somewhat of a transformation, was soon made; and I supposed that I should pass very well for a jack tar. But it is impossible to deceive the practised eye in these matters; and while I supposed myself to be looking as salt as Neptune himself, I was, no doubt, known for a landsman by every one on board as soon as I have in sight. * * * 'With all my imperfections on my head,' I joined the crew, and we hauled out into the stream, and came to anchor for the night. The next day we were employed in preparations for sea, reeving studding-sail gear, crossing royal yards, putting on chafing gear, and taking on board our powder. On the following night I stood my first watch. I remained awake nearly all the first part of the night from fear that I might not hear when I was called; and when I went on deck, so great were my ideas of the importance of my trust, that I walked regularly fore and aft the whole length of the vessel, looking out over the bows and taffrail at each turn, and was not a little surprised at the coolness of the old salt whom I called to take my place, in stowing himself snugly away under the long boat for a nap. That was a sufficient look-out, he thought, for a fine night, at anchor in a safe harbour."

They were no sooner clear of port, than there was bad weather to prepare for:—

"I now began to feel the first discomforts of a sailor's life. The steerage, in which I lived, was filled with coils of rigging, spare sails, old junk, and ship stores, which had not been stowed away. Moreover, there had been no berths built for us to sleep in, and we were not allowed to drive nails to hang our cloths upon. The sea, too, had risen, the vessel was rolling heavily, and everything was pitched about in grand confusion. There was a complete 'hurrah's nest,' as the sailors say, 'everything on top and nothing at hand.' A large hawser had been coiled away upon my chest; my hats, boots, mattress and

blankets had all *fetched away* and gone over to leeward, and were jammed and broken under the boxes and coils of rigging. To crown all, we were allowed no light to find anything with, and I was just beginning to feel strong symptoms of sea-sickness, and that listlessness and inactivity which accompany it."

The poet's son peeps out, even thus early:—

"We had the watch on deck from four till eight this morning. When we came on deck at four o'clock, we found things much changed for the better. The sea and wind had gone down, and the stars were out bright. I experienced a corresponding change in my feelings; yet continued extremely weak from my sickness. I stood in the waist on the weather side, watching the gradual breaking of the day, and the first streaks of the early light. Much has been said of the sun-rise at sea; but it will not compare with the sun-rise on shore. It wants the accompaniments of the songs of birds, the awakening hum of men, and the glancing of the first beams upon trees, hills, spires, and house-tops, to give it life and spirit. But though the actual *rise of the sun* at sea is not so beautiful, yet nothing will compare with the *early breaking of day* upon the wide ocean. There is something in the first grey streaks stretching along the eastern horizon and throwing an indistinct light upon the face of the deep, which combines with the boundlessness and unknown depth of the sea around you, and gives one a feeling of loneliness, of dread, and of melancholy foreboding, which nothing else in nature can give. This gradually passes away as the light grows brighter, and when the sun comes up, the ordinary monotonous sea day begins."

But a sailor on board a merchantman has no great deal of leisure for day-dreams; indeed, it may be as well, before we proceed further, to give the reader an insight into the "nothing-to-do" of a sailor's life, for there is a good deal of misapprehension on this subject:—

"In the first place, then, the discipline of the ship requires every man to be at work upon *something* when he is on deck, except at night and on Sundays. Except at these times, you will never see a man on board a well-ordered vessel standing idle on deck, sitting down, or leaning over the side. It is the officer's duty to keep every one at work, even if there is nothing to be done but to scrape the rust from the chain cables. In no state prison are the convicts more regularly set to work, and more closely watched. No conversation is allowed among the crew at their duty; and, though they frequently do talk when aloft, or when near one another, yet they always stop when an officer is nigh. * * * Some officers have been so driven to find work for the crew in a ship ready for sea, that they have set them to pounding the anchors (often done) and scraping the chain cables. The 'Philadelphia catechism' is, 'Six days shalt thou labour and do all thou art able, And on the seventh—holystone the decks and scrape the cable.'"

Perhaps the following example of summary punishment and promotion may amuse the reader. The second mate was found asleep on his watch:—

"At seven bells in the morning, all hands were called aft, and told that Foster was no longer an officer on board, and that we might choose one of our own number for second mate. It is usual for the captain to make this offer, and it is very good policy, for the crew think themselves the choosers, and are flattered by it, but have to obey, nevertheless. Our crew, as is usual, refused to take the responsibility of choosing a man of whom we could never be able to complain, and left it to the captain. He picked out an active and intelligent young sailor, born near the Kennebec, who had been several Canton voyages, and proclaimed him in the following manner: 'I choose Jim Hall—he's your second mate. All you've got to do is, to obey him as you would me; and remember that he is *Mr. Hall*. Foster went forward into the fore-castle as a common sailor, and lost the *handle to his name*, while young fore-mast Jim became Mr. Hall, and took up his quarters in the land of knives and forks and tea-cups."

We have now passed the Falkland Islands—Staten Island—and are fairly in the region of Cape Horn. We have a taste of its quality, of course—who ever passed without?—but we shall

reserve particulars for our homeward voyage. The usual accompaniments of wind, snow, and hail were so far varied with calm and sunshine, that the ship received a visit from the captain of a whaler:—

"He began a 'yarn' when he came aboard, which lasted, but with little intermission, for four hours. It was all about himself, and the Peruvian government, and the Dutch frigate, and Lord James Townshend, and President Jackson, and the ship *Ann McKim* of Baltimore. It would probably never have come to an end, had not a good breeze sprung up, which sent him off to his own vessel. One of the lads who came in his boat, a thoroughly countrified-looking fellow, seemed to care very little about the vessel, rigging, or anything else, but went round looking at the live stock, and leaned over the pig-sty, and said he wished he was back again tending his father's pigs."

Another incident made memorable the passage round Cape Horn:—

"At seven o'clock in the morning, it being our watch below, we were aroused from a sound sleep by the cry of 'All hands ahoy! a man overboard!' This unwonted cry sent a thrill through the heart of every one, and hurrying on deck, we found the vessel hove flat aback, with all her studding-sails set; for the boy who was at the helm left it to throw something overboard, and the carpenter, who was an old sailor, knowing that the wind was light, put the helm down, and hove her aback. The watch on deck were lowering away the quarter-boat, and I got on deck just in time to heave myself into her as she was leaving the side; but it was not until out upon the wide Pacific, in our little boat, that I knew whom we had lost. It was George Ballmer, a young English sailor, who was prized by the officers as an active and willing seaman, and by the crew as a lively, hearty fellow, and a good shipmate. He was going aloft to fit a strap round the main topmast-head, for ringtail halyards, and had the strap and block, a coil of halyards, and a marline-spike, about his neck. He fell from the starboard futtock shrouds, and not knowing how to swim, and being heavily dressed, with all those things round his neck, he probably sank immediately. We pulled astern, in the direction in which he fell, and, though we knew that there was no hope of saving him, yet no one wished to speak of returning, and we rowed about for nearly an hour, without the hope of doing anything, but unwilling to acknowledge to ourselves that we must give him up. At length we turned the boat's head, and made towards the vessel. Death is at all times solemn, but never so much so as at sea. A man dies on shore; his body remains with his friends, and 'the mourners go about the streets'; but when a man falls overboard at sea, and is lost, there is a suddenness in the event, and a difficulty in realizing it, which give to it an air of awful mystery. A man dies on shore—you follow his body to the grave, and a stone marks the spot. You are often prepared for the event. There is always something which helps you to realize it when it happens, and to recall it when it has passed. A man is shot down by your side in battle, and the mangled body remains an object, and a real evidence; but at sea, the man is near you—at your side—you hear his voice, and in an instant he is gone, and nothing but a vacancy shows his loss. Then, too, at sea—to use a homely, but expressive phrase—you miss a man so much. A dozen men are shut up together in a little bark, upon the wide, wide sea, and for months and months see no forms and hear no voices but their own, and one is taken suddenly from among them, and they miss him at every turn. It is like losing a limb. There are no new faces or new scenes to fill up the gap. There is always an empty berth in the fore-castle, and one man wanting when the small night watch is mustered. There is one less to take the wheel, and one less to lay out with you upon the yard. You miss his form, and the sound of his voice, for habit has made them almost necessary to you, and each of your senses feels the loss. All these things make such a death peculiarly solemn, and the effect of it remains upon the crew for some time. * * * We had hardly returned on board with our sad report, before an auction was held of the poor man's clothes. The captain had first, however, called all hands aft, and

asked them if they were satisfied that everything had been done to save the man, and if they thought there was any use in remaining there longer. The crew all said that it was in vain, for the man did not know how to swim, and was very heavily dressed. So we then filled away, and kept her off to her course. —The laws regulating navigation make the captain answerable for the effects of a sailor who dies during the voyage; and it is either a law or a universal custom established for convenience, that the captain should immediately hold an auction of his things, in which they are bid off by the sailors, and the sums which they give are deducted from their wages at the end of the voyage. In this way the trouble and risk of keeping his things through the voyage are avoided, and the clothes are usually sold for more than they would be worth on shore. Accordingly, we had no sooner got the ship before the wind, than his chest was brought up upon the fore-castle, and the sale began. The jackets and trousers in which we had seen him dressed but a few days before, were exposed and bid off while the life was hardly out of his body, and his chest was taken aft and used as a store-chest, so that there was nothing left which could be called his. Sailors have an unwillingness to wear a dead man's clothes during the same voyage, and they seldom do so, unless they are in absolute want."

Juan Fernandez was soon reached; and the enthusiasm of the young sailor, and his eagerness to set foot on shore there, confirm our suspicions that his eyes were good enough to see visions when at college, though not to pore over books. But the south-east trade-winds were not to be lost, and the *Pilgrim* made sail, and neither land nor vessel were seen before she reached California. The captain took advantage of the fine weather to get the vessel in order, and a good deal of dirty drudgery to the crew was the consequence. Our young landsman had now become a seaman:—

"My messmate S— and myself petitioned the captain for leave to shift our berths from the steerage, where we had previously lived, into the fore-castle. This, to our delight, was granted, and we turned in to bunk and mess with the crew forward. We now began to feel like sailors, which we never fully did when we were in the steerage. While there, however useful and active you may be, you are but a mongrel,—and sort of afterguard and ship's 'cousin.' You are immediately under the eye of the officers, cannot dance, sing, play, smoke, make a noise, or growl, (i.e. complain,) or take any other sailor's pleasure; and you live with the steward, who is usually a go-between; and the crew never feel as though you were one of them. But if you live in the fore-castle, you are 'as independent as a wood-sawyer's clerk,' (nautic), and are a sailor. You hear sailors' talk, learn their ways, their peculiarities of feeling as well as speaking and acting; and moreover, pick up a great deal of curious and useful information in seamanship, ships' customs, foreign countries, &c., from their long yarns and equally long disputes. No man can be a sailor, or know what sailors are, unless he has lived in the fore-castle with them—turned in and out with them—eaten of their dish—and drank of their cup. After I had been a week there, nothing would have tempted me to go back to my old berth; and never afterwards, even in the worst of weather, when in a close and leaking fore-castle off Cape Horn, did I for a moment wish myself in the steerage. Another thing which you learn better in the fore-castle than you can anywhere else, is, to make and mend clothes; and this is indispensable to sailors. A large part of their watches below they spend at this work; and here I learned that art which stood me in so good stead afterwards."

The vessel soon reached Santa Barbara:—

"The first impression which California made upon us was very disagreeable—the open roadstead; anchoring three miles from the shore; running out to sea before every south-easter; landing in a high surf, with a little dark looking town, a mile from the beach, and not a sound to be heard, or anything to be seen, but Sandwich Islanders, hides, and tallow-bags."

They were not detained here long, and proceeded to Monterey:—

"The next day being Sunday, which is the liberty-day among merchantmen, when it is usual to let a part of the crew go ashore, the sailors had depended upon a day on land, and were already disputing who should ask to go, when, upon being called in the morning, we were turned to upon the rigging, and found that the topmast, which had been sprung, was to come down, and a new one to go up, and top-gallant and royal-masts, and the rigging to be set up. This was too bad. If there is anything that irritates sailors and makes them feel hardly used, it is being deprived of their Sabbath. Not that they would always, or indeed generally, spend it religiously, but it is their only day of rest. Then, too, they are so often necessarily deprived of it by storms, and unavoidable duties of all kinds, that to take it from them when lying quietly and safely in port, without any urgent reason, bears the more hardly. The only reason in this case was, that the captain had determined to have the customs-house officers on board on Monday, and wished to have his brig in order. Jack is a slave on board ship; but still he has many opportunities of throwing and balking his master. When there is danger, or necessity, or when he is well used, no one can work faster than he: but the instant he feels that he is kept at work for nothing, no sloth could make less headway. He must not refuse his duty, or be in any way disobedient, but all the work that an officer gets out of him, he may be welcome to. Every man who has been three months at sea knows how to 'work Tom Cox's traverse!'—three turns round the long-boat, and a pull at the scutted-butt! This morning everything went in this way. 'Singing' was the order of the day. Send a man below to get a block, and he would capsize everything before finding it, then not bring it up till an officer had called him twice, and take as much time to put things in order again. Marline-spikes were not to be found; knives wanted a prodigious deal of sharpening, and, generally, three or four were waiting round the grindstone at a time. When a man got to the mast-head, he would come slowly down again to get something which he had forgotten; and after the tackles were put up, six men would pull less than one who pulled 'with a will.' When the mate was out of sight, nothing was done. It was all up-hill work; and at eight o'clock, when we went to breakfast, things were nearly where they were when we began. * * * After breakfast, it leaked out, through the officers, that if we would get through the work soon, we might have a boat in the afternoon and go a fishing. This bait was well thrown, and took with several who were fond of fishing; and all began to find that as we had one thing to do, and were not to be kept at work for the day, the sooner we did it the better. Accordingly, things took a new aspect; and before two o'clock, this work, which was in a fair way to last two days, was done."

Trading now commenced. Monterey is, or ought to be, a thriving place:—

"Nothing but the character of the people prevents Monterey from becoming a great town. The soil is as rich as a man could wish—climate as good as any in the world—water abundant, and situation extremely beautiful. The harbour, too, is a good one, being subject only to one bad wind—the north; and though the holding ground is not the best, yet I heard of but one vessel's being driven ashore here. * * * One thing that surprised me was the quantity of silver that was in circulation. I certainly never saw so much silver at one time in my life, as during the week that we were at Monterey. The truth is, they have no credit system, no banks, and no way of investing money but in cattle. They have no circulating medium but silver and hides—which the sailors call 'California bank-notes.' Everything that they buy they must pay for in one or the other of these things. The hides they bring down dried and doubled, in clumsy ox-carts, or upon mules' backs, and the money they carry tied up in a handkerchief—fifty, eighty, or an hundred, dollars and half dollars."

We cannot, of course, follow the track of the vessel from port to port, but must be content to pause here and there for characteristic scenes and sketches. There is one, indeed, vividly painted, which we resolved more than once to

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pass unnoticed: but the truth, and the whole truth, should be told: here then is one of the hateful realities of a sailor's life, or an account of treatment to which he may be subjected:—

“Our mate (as the first mate is always called *par excellence*) was a worthy man;—a more honest, upright, and kind-hearted man I never saw; but he was too good for the mate of a merchantman. He was not the man to call a sailor a ‘son of a b—h,’ and knock him down with a handspike. He wanted the energy and spirit for such a voyage as ours, and for such a captain. Captain T— was a vigorous, energetic fellow: as sailors say, ‘he hadn’t a lazy bone in him.’ He was made of steel and whalebone. He was a man to ‘toe the mark,’ and to make every one else step up to it. During all the time that I was with him, I never saw him sit down on deck. He was always active and driving; severe in his discipline, and expected the same of his officers. The mate not being enough of a *driver* for him, and being perhaps too easy with the crew, he was dissatisfied with him, became suspicious that discipline was getting relaxed, and began to interfere in everything. He drew the reins tighter; and as, in all quarrels between officers, the sailors side with the one who treats them best, he became suspicious of the crew. He saw that everything went wrong—that nothing was done ‘with a will,’ and in his attempt to remedy the difficulty by severity, he made everything worse. We were in every respect unfortunately situated. Captain, officers, and crew, entirely united for one another; and every circumstance and event was like a two-edged sword, and cut both ways. The length of the voyage, which made us dissatisfied, made the captain, at the same time, feel the necessity of order and strict discipline; and the nature of the country, which caused us to feel that we had nowhere to go for redress, but were entirely at the mercy of a hard master, made the captain feel, on the other hand, that he must depend entirely upon his own resources. Severity created discontent, and signs of discontent provoked severity. Then, too, ill-treatment and dissatisfaction are no ‘*limina laborum*,’ and many a time have I heard the sailors say that they should not mind the length of the voyage, and the hardships, if they were only kindly treated, and if they could feel that something was done to make things lighter and easier. We felt as though our situation was a call upon our superiors to give us occasional relaxations, and to make our yoke easier. But the contrary policy was pursued. We were kept at work all day when in port; which, together with a watch at night, made us glad to turn-in as soon as we got below. Thus we got no time for reading, or—which was of more importance to us—for washing and mending our clothes. And then, when we were at sea, sailing from port to port, instead of giving us ‘watch and voice,’ as was the custom on board every other vessel on the coast, we were all kept on deck and at work, rain or shine, making spun-yarn and rope, and at other work in good weather, and picking oakum when it was too wet for anything else. All hands were called to ‘come up and see it rain,’ and kept on deck hour after hour in a drenching rain, standing round the deck so far apart as to prevent our talking with one another, with our tarpaulins and oil-cloth jackets on, picking old rope to pieces, or laying up gaskets and robands. This was often done, too, when we were lying in port with two anchors down, and no necessity for more than one man on deck as a look-out. This is what is called ‘*lazing*’ a crew, and ‘working their old iron up.’”

“For several days the captain seemed very much out of humour. Nothing went right or fast enough for him. He quarrelled with the cook, and threatened to flog him for throwing wood on deck; and had a dispute with the mate about reeving a Spanish hutton; the mate saying that he was right, and had been taught how to do it by a man *who was a sailor*! This the captain took in dudgeon, and they were at sword’s point at once. But his displeasure was chiefly turned against a large, heavy-moulded fellow from the Middle states, who was called Sam. This man hesitated in his speech, and was rather slow in his motions, but was a pretty good sailor and always seemed to do his best; but the captain took a dislike to him, thought he was surly and

lazy; and, ‘if you once give a dog a bad name,’—as the sailor-phrase is,—‘he may as well jump overboard.’ The captain found fault with everything this man did, and hazed him for dropping a marline-spike from the main-yard, where he was at work. This, of course, was an accident, but it was set down against him. The captain was on board all day Friday, and everything went on hard and disagreeably. ‘The more you drive a man, the less he will do,’ was as true with us as with any other people. We worked late Friday night, and were turned to early Saturday morning. About ten o’clock the captain ordered our new officer, Russell, who by this time had become thoroughly disliked by all the crew, to get the gig ready to take him ashore. John, the Swede, was sitting in the boat alongside, and Russell and myself were standing by the main hatchway, waiting for the captain, who was down in the hold, where the crew were at work, when we heard his voice raised in violent dispute with somebody, whether it was with the mate, or one of the crew, I could not tell; and then came blows and scuffling. I ran to the side and beckoned to John, who came up, and we leaned down the hatchway: and though we could see no one, yet we knew that the captain had the advantage, for his voice was loud and clear—

“‘You see your condition! You see your condition! Will you ever give me any more of your jaw?’ No answer; and then came wrestling and heaving, as though the man was trying to turn him. ‘You may as well keep still, for I have got you,’ said the captain. Then came the question, ‘Will you ever give me any more of your jaw?’

“‘I never gave you any, sir,’ said Sam; for it was his voice that we heard, though low and half choked.

“‘That’s not what I ask you. Will you ever be impudent to me again?’

“‘I never have been, sir,’ said Sam.

“‘Answer my question, or I’ll make a spread eagle of you! I’ll flog you, by G—d.’

“‘I’m no negro slave,’ said Sam.

“‘Then I’ll make you one,’ said the captain; and he came to the hatchway, and sprang on deck, threw off his coat, and rolling up his sleeves, called out to the mate—‘Seize that man up, Mr. A—! Seize him up! Make a spread eagle of him! I’ll teach you all who is master aboard!’

“The crew and officers followed the captain up the hatchway, and after repeated orders the mate laid hold of Sam, who made no resistance, and carried him to the gangway.

“‘What are you going to flog that man for, sir?’ said John, the Swede, to the captain.

“Upon hearing this, the captain turned upon him, but knowing him to be quick and resolute, he ordered the steward to bring the irons, and calling upon Russell to help him, went up to John.

“‘Let me alone,’ said John. ‘I’m willing to be put in irons. You need not use any force;’ and putting out his hands, the captain slipped the irons on, and sent him aft to the captain’s deck. Sam by this time was seized up, as it is called, that is, placed against the shrouds, with his wrists made fast to the shrouds, his jacket off, and his back exposed. The captain stood on the break of the deck, a few feet from him, and a little raised, so as to have a good swing at him, and held in his hand the bight of a thick, strong rope. The officers stood round, and the crew grouped together in the waist. All these preparations made me feel sick, and almost faint, angry and excited as I was. A man—a human being, made in God’s likeness—fastened up and flogged like a beast! A man, too, whom I had lived with and eaten with for months, and knew almost as well as a brother. The first and almost uncontrollable impulse was resistance. But what was to be done? The time for it had gone by. The two best men were fast, and there were only two beside myself, and a small boy of ten or twelve years of age. And then there were (beside the captain) three officers, steward, agent, and clerk. But beside the numbers, what is there for sailors to do? If they resist, it is mutiny; and if they succeed, and take the vessel, it is piracy. If they ever yield again, their punishment must come; and if they do not yield, they are pirates for life. If a sailor resist his commander, he re-

sists the law; and piracy or submission are his only alternatives. Bad as it was, it must be borne. It is what a sailor ships for. Swinging the rope over his head, and bending his body so as to give it full force, the captain brought it down upon the poor fellow’s back. Once, twice—six times. ‘Will you ever give me any more of your jaw?’ The man writhed with pain, but said not a word. Three times more. This was too much, and he muttered something which I could not hear; this brought as many more as the man could stand; when the captain ordered him to be cut down, and to go forward.

“‘Now for you,’ said the captain, making up to John, and taking his irons off. As soon as he was loose, he ran forward to the fore-castle. ‘Bring that man aft,’ shouted the captain. The second mate, who had been a shipmate of John’s, stood still in the waist, and the mate walked slowly forward; but our third officer, anxious to show his zeal, sprang forward over the windlass, and laid hold of John; but he soon threw him from him. At this moment I would have given worlds for the power to help the poor fellow; but it was all in vain. The captain stood on the quarter-deck, bare-headed, his eyes flashing with rage, and his face as red as blood, swinging the rope, and calling out to his officers ‘Drag him aft!—Lay hold of him; I’ll sweeten him! &c. &c.’ The mate now went forward, and told John quietly to go aft; and he, seeing resistance in vain, threw the blackguard third mate from him; said he would go aft of himself; that they should not drag him; and went up to the gangway, and held out his hands; but as soon as the captain began to make him fast, the indignity was too much, and he began to resist; but the mate and Russell holding him, he was soon seized up. When he was made fast, he turned to the captain, who stood turning up his sleeves and getting ready for the blow, and asked him what he was to be flogged for. ‘Have I ever refused my duty, sir? Have you ever known me to hang back, or to be insolent, or not to know my work?’

“‘No,’ said the captain: ‘it is not that that I flog you for; I flog you for your interference—for asking questions.’

“‘Can’t a man ask a question here without being flogged?’

“‘No,’ shouted the captain; ‘nobody shall open his mouth aboard this vessel, but myself;’ and began laying the blows upon his back, swinging half round between each blow, to give it full effect. As he went on, his passion increased, and he danced about the deck, calling out as he swung the rope—‘If you want to know what I flog you for, I’ll tell you. It’s because I like to do it!—because I like to do it!—It suits me! That’s what I do it for!’

“The man writhed under the pain, until he could endure it no longer, when he called out, with an exclamation more common among foreigners than with us—‘Oh, Jesus Christ! Oh, Jesus Christ!’

“‘Don’t call on Jesus Christ,’ shouted the captain; ‘he can’t help you. Call on Captain T—. He’s the man! He can help you! Jesus Christ can’t help you now!’

“At these words, which I never shall forget, my blood ran cold. I could look on no longer. Disgusted, sick, and horror-struck, I turned away and leaned over the rail, and looked down into the water. A few rapid thoughts of my own situation, and of the prospect of future revenge, crossed my mind; but the falling of the blows and the cries of the man called me back at once. At length they ceased, and turning round, I found that the mate, at a signal from the captain, had cut him down. Almost doubled up with pain, the man walked slowly forward, and went down into the fore-castle. Every one else stood still at his post, while the captain, swelling with rage and with the importance of his achievement, walked the quarter-deck, and at each turn, as he came forward, calling out to us—‘you see your condition! You see where I’ve got you all, and you know what to expect!’—‘You’ve been mistaken in me—you didn’t know what I was? Now you know what I am!’—‘I’ll make you toe the mark, every soul of you, or I’ll flog you all, fore and aft, from the boy up!’—‘You’ve got a driver over you! Yes, a slave-driver—a negro-driver. I’ll see who’ll tell me he isn’t a negro slave!’ With this and the like

matter, equally calculated to quiet us, and to allay any apprehensions of future trouble, he entertained us for about ten minutes, when he went below. Soon after John came aft, with his bare back covered with stripes and wales in every direction, and dreadfully swollen, and asked the steward to ask the captain to let him have some salve, or balsam, to put upon it. 'No,' said the captain, who heard him from below; 'tell him to put his shirt on; that's the best thing for him; and pull me ashore in the boat. Nobody is going to lay-up on board this vessel.' He then called to Mr. Russell to take those two men and two others in the boat, and pull him ashore. I went for one. The two men could hardly bend their backs, and the captain called to them to 'give way,' 'give way!' but finding they did their best, he let them alone. The agent was in the stern-sheets, but during the whole pull—a league or more—not a word was spoken. We landed; the captain, agent, and officer went up to the house, and left us with the boat. I, and the man with me, staid near the boat, while John and Sam walked slowly away, and sat down on the rocks. They talked some time together, but at length separated, each sitting alone. I had some fears of John. He was a foreigner, and violently tempered, and under suffering; and he had his knife with him; and the captain was to come down alone to the boat. But nothing happened; and we went quietly on board. The captain was probably armed, and if either of them had lifted a hand against him, they would have had nothing before them but flight, and starvation in the woods of California, or capture by the soldiers and Indian bloodhounds, whom the offer of twenty dollars would have set upon them.

"After the day's work was done, we went down into the fore-castle, and ate our plain supper; but not a word was spoken. It was Saturday night; but there was no song—no 'sweet-hearts and wives.' A gloom was over everything. The two men lay in their berths, groaning with pain, and we all turned in—but for myself, not to sleep. A sound coming now and then from the berths of the two men showed that they were awake, as awake they must have been, for they could hardly lie in one posture for a moment; the dim swinging lamp of the fore-castle shed its light over the dark hole in which we lived; and many and various reflections and purposes coursed through my mind. I thought of our situation, living under a tyranny; of the character of the country we were in; of the length of the voyage, and of the uncertainty attending our return to America; and then, if we should return, of the prospect of obtaining justice and satisfaction for these poor men; and vowed that, if God should ever give me the means, I would do something to redress the grievances and relieve the sufferings of that poor class of beings, of whom I then was one.

"The flogging was seldom if ever alluded to by us in the fore-castle. If any one had occasion to talk about it, the others, with a delicacy which I hardly expected to find among them, always stopped him, or turned the subject. But the behaviour of the two men who were flogged toward one another showed a delicacy and a sense of honour which would have been worthy of admiration in the highest walks of life. Sam knew that the other had suffered solely on his account; and in all his complaints, he said that if he alone had been flogged, it would have been nothing; but that he never could see that man without thinking what had been the means of bringing that disgrace upon him; and John never, by word or deed, let anything escape him to remind the other that it was by interfering to save his shipmate, that he had suffered. Having got all our spare room filled with hides, we hove up our anchor and made sail for San Diego. In no operation can the disposition of a crew be discovered better than in getting under weigh. Where things are done 'with a will,' every one is like a cat aloft: sails are loosed in an instant; each one lays out his strength on his hand-spike, and the windlass goes briskly round with the loud cry of 'Yo, heave ho! Heave and paw! Heave hearty, ho!' But with us, at this time, it was all dragging work. No one went aloft beyond his ordinary gait, and the chain came slowly in over the windlass. The mate, between the knight-heads, exhausted all his official rhetoric in calls of 'Heave with a will!'—'Heave hearty, men!'—'heave hearty!'—'Heave and raise the dead!'—'Heave and away!'

&c. &c.; but it would not do. Nobody broke his back or his handspike by his efforts. And when the cat-tackle-fall was strung along, and all hands—cook, steward, and all—laid hold to cat the anchor, instead of the lively song of 'Cheerily, men!' in which all hands join in the chorus, we pulled a long, heavy, silent pull, and—as sailors say a song is as good as ten men—the anchor came to the cat-head pretty slowly. 'Give us 'Cheerily!'' said the mate; but there was no 'cheerily' for us, and we did without it. The captain walked the quarter-deck, and said not a word. He must have seen the change, but there was nothing which he could notice officially."

We cannot break off abruptly with this sad tale, and shall, therefore, conclude with the leave-taking of "old Bess":—

"'Old Bess' came from Boston, and lived to get round Cape Horn, where all the other pigs died from cold and wet. Report said that she had been a Canton voyage before. She had been the pet of the cook during the whole passage, and he had fed her with the best of everything, and taught her to know his voice, and do a number of strange tricks for his amusement. Tom Cringle says that no one can fathom a negro's affection for a pig; and I believe he is right, for it almost broke our poor darky's heart when he heard that Bess was to be taken ashore, and that he was to have the care of her no more during the whole voyage. He had depended upon her as a solace, during the long trips up and down the coast. 'Obey orders, if you break owners!' said he. 'Break hearts,' he meant to have said; and lent a hand to get her over the side, trying to make it as easy for her as possible. We got a whip up on the main-yard, and hooking it to a strap round her body, swayed away; and giving a wink to one another, ran her chock up to the yard. 'Vast there! vast!' said the mate; 'none of your skylarking! Lower away!' but he evidently enjoyed the joke. The pig squealed like the 'crack of doom,' and tears stood in the poor darky's eyes, and he muttered something about having no pity on a dumb beast. 'Dumb beast!' said Jack: 'if she's what you call a dumb beast, then my eyes a'n't mates.' This produced a laugh from all but the cook. He was too intent upon seeing her safe in the boat. He watched her all the way ashore, where, upon her landing, she was received by a whole troop of her kind, who had been set ashore from the other vessels, and had multiplied and formed a large commonwealth. From the door of his galley, the cook used to watch them in their manoeuvres, setting up a shout and clapping his hands whenever Bess came off victorious in the struggles for pieces of raw hide and half-picked bones which were lying about the beach. During the day he saved all the nice things, and made a bucket of swill, and asked us to take it ashore in the gig, and looked quite disconcerted when the mate told him that he would pitch the swill overboard, and him after it, if he saw any of it go into the boats. We told him that he thought more about the pig than he did about his wife, who lived down in Robinson's Alley; and, indeed, he could hardly have been more attentive, for he actually, on several nights after dark, when he thought he would not be seen, sculled himself ashore in a boat with a bucket of nice swill, and returned like Leander from crossing the Hellespont."

"Darky" and the captain, we suspect, will find hereafter, that the recording angel has not taken the rating of the crew of the good ship *Pilgrim* from the ship's books—but enough for one week.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Letter to Thomas Phillips, Esq., R.A., 'On the Connexion between the Fine Arts and Religion, and the Means of their Revival,' by Henry Drummond, Esq.—The above title explains so well the author's intention in sitting down to write this letter, that he who is interested in knowing it, will do well to repose on the information which it conveys, as he will find his perceptions growing less distinct at every step which he takes in the perusal of the pamphlet itself. The figure of logic most familiar to the writer's mind, is that which is called "begging the question;" and his arguments have a tendency to

run into circles, which, like those of the magicians, create a species of mystification—to escape from which the reader is glad occasionally to revert to the title-page for the spell-word. Assertions magically delivered, yet contriving to destroy their own authority by contradicting one another—and an unintentional impartiality, which unconsciously argues both sides of the question—would raise a suspicion that a pleasantry had been designed, were it not evident that the author is no joker. From his own proposition (a very correct one, no doubt, but which he afterwards, with his usual determination to be right one way or the other, takes care to deny) that art was in its highest ascendancy in connexion with religion, the author, leaving out every other element of the question, jumps at once to the conclusion, that the religious subjects on which it exercised itself, were the sole cause and spirit of its excellence. But then, as we have hinted, the conclusion is harmless, because it falls to the ground, before the weapons which he elsewhere furnishes for assailing the argument on which it is built. The soundness and intelligence of our author's artistic views, his enlarged appreciation of the meanings and purposes of art, may be tested by the following exemplary passage—intended to annihilate the Dutch and Flemish schools—"It seems quite unintelligible how any one can like to have before him, continually, a representation of that which, in the original, would be disgusting. * * Who would wish to have for ever seated in his presence an exceedingly ugly, olive-coloured, wrinkled old woman, who was a perfect stranger; and if no one would, what could induce any private gentleman to buy the portrait of Titian's mother, painted by her son? If no one would like to see a loathsome satyr, with its legs trailing on the ground, what could induce any one to buy a picture of Rubens representing such a subject, notwithstanding the magic of his colouring? If no one would like to have in his drawing-room, or even to see before its windows, a number of Dutch boors, who had drunk so much as to be filthy, what could induce any one to hang upon his walls the faithful representation of such a scene by Teniers?"—This sort of reasoning is so artistic and conclusive, that probably such of our readers as do not intend to buy the pamphlet may be glad to have one passage more—in which they will get a glimpse at certain of the author's literary opinions, introduced by way of illustration. "There is a certain kind of merit in the poems of Swift, and Little, and Burns; all I contend for is, that it is inferior to those of Dante or Milton. None can read the latter without being the better—none read the former without being the worse; and Burns has effected for the operatives of Scotland what Voltaire did for the small wits of France. They who taste and feel with Dante and Milton, and they who delight in the others, are two different classes: so are they who enjoy the Italian, and those who are pleased with the Flemish, painters. There is enough of spiritual power yet in the Church of Rome, if it were but rightly put forth, to produce again works which should be worthy of its ancient greatness, notwithstanding the rubbish by which that power is oppressed; but there is not enough power in Protestantism to put forth anything better than it does, for there never was; and it never can have in its decrepitude that which it wanted in its prime."—We are grateful to the author, that he has not confined this literary and critical excursion to the distinguished artist for whose benefit it was originally intended.

On the Heat of Vapour, and on Atmospheric Refractions, by J. W. Lubbock, Esq.—Sir John Lubbock, as he has come to be styled since this tract was written, is a splendid example of the falsehood of the old notion, that a commercial man must know nothing, and stick to nothing but commerce. The Treasurer of the Royal Society, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London—author once a year, at least, of some tract on one of the highest questions of astronomy or physics—has been for years the most active partner of a large and thriving banking and commercial establishment; and even more, of that particular establishment which stood such a run without falling, during the panic of 1825, as is well quoted for its severity. Poisson and others have supposed the absolute heat to remain constant, while the temperature varies. This hypothesis does not agree

with observations according to suppositions on proper making do.

Memorials, by Morier, R. We so Zimmermann announce paying n who are in

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with observation; and Sir J. Lubbock makes the accordance of theory and observation more close, by supposing the absolute heat also to receive an accession proportional to the increase of temperature, and making deductions from that supposition.

Memoir on the Countries about the Caspian and Aral Seas, by Carl Zimmermann. Translated by Capt. Morier, R.N., with a Map by John Arrowsmith.—We so recently noticed the original work of Carl Zimmermann (No. 664), that we have now only to announce the translation, which, with the accompanying map, we recommend to the attention of all who are interested in the subject.

Henry of Monmouth; or the Field of Agincourt, by Major Michel. 3 vols.—Whether "the darkness be in our ain een" or not, certain it is that three trials (and the third, according to the proverb, should pay for all) left us as we began, unable to get through this historical novel. It is not, we fully believe, inferior to many of its class: it is carefully written, and in that gentlemanly style which befits the narrative of adventures on the tented field. But there is too much of every ingredient, save one, in it—too much history, too much adventure—too many ambuscades and disguises, and love-adventures—the thing needful is life, either in action or character.

Wild Flowers from the Glens, by E. L. L.—This is a volume of unpretending sketches, illustrating the scenery and traditions of the district called The Glens, (or Glynnen), in the county of Antrim. It is obviously the work of an unpractised hand—and, we believe, of a lady; and an appeal is made for forbearance, on the plea of circumstances of domestic sorrow and anxiety, which attended its composition. We have never understood what benefit authors can derive from even the success of appeals like these, unless praise and blame were things optional with

the critic, to give or to withhold—and conferring at the same time, the merit or the dulness which they proclaim. If the reviewer were a rabid being, like the ogre of a fairy tale, whose *ex-officio* propensity it was to devour all the literary children that came in his way—or a power like the evil principle of the Manichæans, to be appeased by prayers and offerings, then there might be some reason in these attempts to deprecate his wrath, by personal, instead of literary considerations. But if his office, rightly understood and exercised, like that of the prophet, leaves him no power to approve or condemn but as he is instructed—if like Balaam, he can give his curse or blessing only as he is constrained,—the pleading of a crowned Balak, or the yet more powerful one of a young and gentle woman, can have no influence with him. To make the mission of the reviewer valuable to the cause of literature, it is in this impassive spirit that it should be fulfilled.

The Arithmetical and Commercial Dictionary, with Practical Questions, &c., by W. Barnes.—Questions of some sort are necessary exercises, and these are as good as most we have seen. The Dictionary will be found generally useful: it will help the pupil to the meaning of the arithmetical and commercial terms used, respecting which we agree with Mr. Barnes he ought to be examined.

The London Almanack for 1841.—So far as a hasty examination will enable us to form an opinion, this promises to be a very useful work. It contains a Calendar—a Peerage, existing, extinct, and dormant—a Baronetage—Orders of Knighthood—a list of Members of Parliament—Officers of Government—Navy and Army Lists—County Authorities—Justices of the Peace—Beneficed Clergy in each Parish—and numberless other matters which it would occupy half a page to enumerate.

List of New Books.—The Locomotive Engine Popularly Explained, by W. Templeton, with illustrations, 12mo. 5s. cl.—A Guide to Jewish History, 2nd edit. 18mo. 3s. hf. bd.—Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, by Soames, new edit. 4 vols. 8vo. 52s. bds.—Allen's Collectanea Latina, new edit. 12mo. 3s. sheep.—Kemble's Church Palms, 4to. 7s. 6d. swd., 8s. 6d. cl.—The Christian Beacon, edited by the Rev. C. B. Taylor, Vol. II. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Hutton's (the Rev. W. P.) Tribute of Song, 12mo. 3s. cl.—The Gospel Magazine for 1840, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—Stevens's Help for the Disciples of Immanuel, 3rd edit. 8vo. 5s. 6d. bds.—A System of Arithmetic, by John Husband, 18mo. 1s. bd.—The Life of Beethoven, edited by J. Moscheles, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.—Jean's Practical Astronomy, 12mo. 6s. 6d. cl.—The Mirror, Vol. XXXVI. 8vo. 5s. 6d. bds.—Prince Albert's Alphabet for the Princess Royal, 12mo. 2s. 6d. plain, 4s. coloured.—Brewster's Marryers of Science, or Lives of Galileo, Kepler, Tycho Brahe, 12mo. 7s. cl.—Moorecroft and Trebeck's Travels, 2 vols. 8vo. 30s. cl.—Delamartine's Souvenirs, &c. en Orient, abridged by J. Davenport, 12mo. 7s. cl.—The Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage, &c. by C. B. Dodd, Esq. post 8vo. 9s. cl.—Dr. Granville's Spas of England, 30 illustrations, 1 vol. post 8vo. 15s. cl.—Wilkinson on Engines of War, 8vo. 9s. cl.—Legends of Connaught, 8vo. 10s. cl.—Memoir of John Huss, translated by Miss Wyatt, fe. 3s. 6d. cl.—Dickersteth on the Restoration of the Jews, fe. 8vo. 6s. cl.—Vivia Perpetua, a Dramatic Poem, by Sarah F. Adams, crown 8vo. 6s. cl.—The Surveyor, Engineer, and Architect, Vol. I. 4to. 15s. 6d. cl.—Gilbert's Modern Atlas, Section I. Europe, 4to. 8s. 6d. cl.—Gilbert's Map of London, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Phillips's Triumphs of a Practical Faith, Twelve Discourses, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.—Bishop Andrew's Ninety-Six Sermons, Vol. I. 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—Habershon's Historical Exposition of the Apocalypse, post 8vo. 9s. cl.—Porter's Prayers for Families, 18mo. 1s. 3d. swd., 2s. 6d. bd.—The Spiritual Life, by the Rev. T. Griffiths, 5th edit. 12mo. 5s. cl.—Bishop Cosin's Collection of Private Devotions, 12th edit. royal 32mo. 5s. 6d. cl.—The Rev. John Davison's Remains and Occasional Publications, 8vo. 15s. cl.—Pulpit Recollections, or Miscellaneous Sermons, by the Rev. Sir W. Dunbar, 8vo. 7s. cl.—Life of Christ, 18mo. new edit. 4s. cl.—Precept and Example, by the Author of 'Patrick Welwood,' 18mo. 2s. cl.—A Treatise on the Copyright of Designs, from Printed Fragments, by J. E. Tennent, Esq. crown 8vo. 5s. cl.—The Borough Court Rules, by P. S. Carey, royal 8vo. 5s. bds.—Forsyth on Composition with Creditors, 12mo. 6s. bds.—Seventh Report of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Institution, 8vo. 2s. 6d. swd.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for JANUARY, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1841.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			External Thermometers.		Rain in inches, Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.					
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.										
	JAN.	Flint Glass.		Crown Glass.	Flint Glass.		Crown Glass.	Fahrenheit.				Self-registering				
							9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest						
F 1	29.962	29.954	37.8	29.910	29.904	39.2	34	01.4	40.3	44.4	37.5	44.2	.016	W	Overcast—deposition—brisk wind throughout the day, as also evening.	
S 2	30.096	30.088	40.0	30.108	30.100	40.7	35	01.8	39.7	42.2	40.0	45.5		W	Fine—light clouds—brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast.	
* 3	29.304	29.300	40.5	29.168	29.164	40.5	35	01.0	35.8	36.4	36.0	44.8	.166	S	(A.M. Overcast—light wind and snow—very high wind throughout the night. P.M. Lt. cl. & wind. Ev. Fine & starlight—sharp frost.)	
M 4	29.002	28.998	36.9	29.050	29.042	36.3	32	frozen	30.4	35.7	29.8	38.7	.061	S	(A.M. Thick fog—white frost. P.M. Overcast—light snow and wind. Evening, Overcast—light snow and frost.)	
T 5	29.308	29.300	35.0	29.322	29.314	35.4	29	01.3	31.8	33.3	30.0	36.3	.036	NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—light snow—brisk wind. Evening, Continued snow.)	
W 6	29.528	29.520	33.2	29.568	29.560	33.0	27	frozen	27.7	29.3	28.3	34.4		N	(A.M. Overcast—sharp frost. P.M. Fine—lt. cl. Ev. Overcast—sharp frost.)	
OT 7	29.696	29.688	29.7	29.704	29.696	29.3	21	ditto	19.7	27.2	20.7	29.8		NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds—sharp frost. P.M. Thick haze—sharp frost.)	
F 8	29.884	29.878	27.7	29.872	29.864	27.3	24	ditto	19.7	21.8	19.5	27.3		SSW	(A.M. Thick fog—light snow—sharp frost. P.M. Overcast—sharp frost. Evening, Moonlight—sharp frost.)	
S 9	29.706	29.698	24.2	29.594	29.586	26.6	18	ditto	21.2	30.3	14.9	21.4		SW	(A.M. Light fog—moonlight. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—slight thaw. Ev. Overcast—lt. snow—sharp frost.)	
10	29.230	29.224	28.2	29.128	29.122	29.8	25	ditto	32.4	37.0	22.2	32.8		SE	(A.M. Overcast—continued thaw—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Cloudy.)	
M11	28.864	28.858	31.9	28.850	28.844	33.8	28	01.0	34.3	35.5	32.8	37.7	.205	S	(A.M. Lightly overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Frosty—light fog.)	
T 12	29.366	29.358	34.8	29.504	29.498	35.8	30	Broken by frost	35.2	36.8	33.0	37.2		W	(A.M. Light fog—rain and wind. P.M. Overcast—lt. snow. Ev. Thaw.)	
W13	29.550	29.546	35.0	29.334	29.326	35.9	32	01.2	35.2	33.3	32.8	38.0		S	(Overcast, with occasional falls of snow, with brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Continued snow—brisk wind.)	
T14	29.370	29.364	35.8	29.250	29.246	36.2	32	01.7	35.2	33.3	34.0	39.2	.352	NE	(Overcast—light rain and wind, with nearly the whole of the day, as also the evening.)	
F15	29.578	29.570	36.6	29.664	29.656	37.8	33	00.5	34.8	35.5	33.3	37.2	.700	NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—thaw.)	
S16	29.654	29.648	36.9	29.462	29.456	38.2	35	00.9	37.4	44.6	33.6	38.2	.088	E	(Overcast—light rain and wind nearly the whole of the day, as also the evening.)	
17	29.632	29.626	43.0	29.616	29.608	44.6	41	01.4	47.4	51.3	37.0	51.8	.166	SE	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Fine. The same.)	
M18	29.736	29.728	45.7	29.714	29.706	46.6	42	01.4	46.8	47.7	46.7	52.3		S	(A.M. Overcast—slight rain and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Evening, Overcast—slight rain.)	
T19	29.812	29.804	42.7	29.886	29.878	42.6	37	01.2	35.5	36.7	35.0	48.7	.227	NNW	(A.M. Overcast—lt. fog & wind. P.M. Overcast—fine rain. Ev. Light snow.)	
W20	30.050	30.044	39.2	30.106	30.098	39.0	32	02.1	34.3	33.7	32.6	37.8	.022	NW	(A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Fine and starlight.)	
T21	30.410	30.402	35.6	30.384	30.376	36.6	34	frozen	29.8	38.8	28.4	34.7		W	(A.M. Lightly overcast—sharp frost. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Evening, Fine and starlight.)	
F22	30.396	30.388	37.2	30.256	30.250	38.6	39	02.0	34.5	40.5	30.2	39.4		S	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Evening, Overcast—light rain.)	
S23	30.084	30.076	40.0	30.116	30.108	41.0	37	01.7	39.3	41.0	34.3	44.7	.100	NW	(Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast.)	
24	29.796	29.790	39.6	29.860	29.854	39.5	33	02.4	36.7	35.0	36.0	42.0		NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—shortly before 12 o'clock, snow storm, with h. wind. P.M. Overcast—h. wind. Ev. Fine & starlight.)	
M25	30.350	30.342	36.6	30.274	30.266	37.2	31	01.9	31.5	37.5	31.0	38.0	.033	SW	(Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.)	
T26	30.000	29.992	38.7	29.996	29.988	40.6	35	01.4	42.7	47.3	31.0	43.6		WSW	(A.M. Overcast—deposition—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Evening, Overcast.)	
W27	30.050	30.044	42.2	30.154	30.148	44.5	40	01.5	47.3	49.3	43.0	48.6		SSW	(A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clouds. Ev. Fine & starlight.)	
T28	30.322	30.314	41.9	30.282	30.274	42.8	36	01.9	37.8	43.8	36.0	52.8		SW	(A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Fine and starlight.)	
F29	30.202	30.196	42.2	30.204	30.198	43.8	37	01.8	37.7	43.4	36.0	44.8		NW	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Evening, Cloudy.)	
S30	30.282	30.274	42.6	30.256	30.248	44.3	37	02.1	40.2	40.3	37.9	44.2		S	(A.M. Light fog & wind. P.M. Overcast—light rain. Ev. The same.)	
31	30.210	30.202	42.7	30.204	30.198	42.8	38	01.4	40.8	34.7	40.2	41.7	.052	S	(Overcast—light rain, snow, and fog, nearly the whole of the day. Ev. Evening, Overcast—light rain, snow, and wind.)	
MEAN.	29.788	29.781	37.9	29.769	29.761	38.1	33	01.5	35.3	38.0	32.7	40.3		Sum. 2.224		Mean Barometer corrected { 9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 29.767 .. 29.748 C. 29.759 .. 29.739

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

* On Sunday, the 3rd of January, a few minutes before 7 A.M., the wind increased much, accompanied by a very heavy shower of hail, snow, and rain, with loud thunder, and very vivid lightning. The lightning had a very purplish appearance. The storm continued for the space of twelve to fourteen minutes after which it became perfectly calm. At 7 A.M. the barometer was much depressed, having fallen nearly an inch from the previous afternoon. It stood thus on the 2nd, at 3 P.M., F. 30.108, C. 30.100; and on the 3rd, at 7 A.M. F. 29.324, C. 29.318; and it continued falling until the following day, when at 3 P.M. it began to rise.—J. D. R.

ON A LATE IMMERSION.

Long life, and hard frosts, to the fortunate Prince!
And for many a skating may Providence spare him!
For, surely, his accident served to evince
That the Queen dearly loved, tho' the ice couldn't bear
him!
T. H.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

MANY reasons have been assigned for the universally admitted poverty of the Exhibition at the British Institution: one, that several of the younger members of the Academy and newly-elected Associates acted under orders from the whipper-in of the Academy, to hold back for a strong Exhibition of that body on the first Monday in May, and that they were thus deterred from sending;—another, that several of the callow birds were afraid of spreading their wings before Easter, and of appearing to come into competition for the four 50*l.* prizes with their more established brethren of the brush. It is easier to assign reasons, than to maintain them. To our thinking, the simple fact that three hundred pictures were refused, is a proof that there was no unwillingness among the large body of artists to compete for the prizes; while it says little for true art that so many were rejected, when so large a number of inferior pictures have found admittance. If Art be on the growth in this country, it is, we fear, a sickly growth, resulting from rules and academies, not from an earnest study of nature—a growth to be calculated by production, not merit—a forced and unnatural growth—a trade supply for Vanity Fair; a consequence of unnatural stimulants, hot-bed influences, and the silly vanity of silly people, who have been taught by trading quacks that “sketches” and “drawings” are works of art; that pictures make a room look “so pretty”; and that to buy was to become “a patron,” and manifest a refined and superior taste; influences which Associations and Art-Unions only tend mischievously to increase, unless sound judgment be manifested in the distribution of their funds—influences which, unless resolutely opposed, will reduce Art to the level, or below the level, of upholstery and decorative house-painting. These, we know, are unpalatable truths; but it is high time to enforce them, when three hundred pictures are returned from the Institution; and yet the vast majority of the selected are, it is admitted by all parties, a disgrace to British Art. However, to sweeten this bitter paragraph, and to conclude somewhat more in the spirit of the age, we may observe, that rumour has not been idle in allotting the prizes, and has named Messrs. Stone, Cooke, Von Holst, and Simson, as the successful artists. To us, it appears by no means improbable, that the prizes will not be awarded at all; and certainly the withholding them, or some of them, on this occasion, would greatly tend to raise them hereafter as honorary distinctions, and not reduce their pecuniary value.

At the election on Wednesday last, Mr. Hardwicke and Mr. David Roberts were elected members, and Mr. John Chalon an Associate, of the Royal Academy.—The meeting of the Graphic Society, on the same evening, was a very dull affair.

At the meeting of the Committee of the Literary Fund on Wednesday, Sir Henry Ellis, the Treasurer, announced, that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London, acting as trustees of the Cholmondeley Charities, had presented a donation of 100*l.* to the Literary Fund. Thanks were unanimously voted to the trustees for their munificent encouragement, and for the honourable testimony thus borne to the character and usefulness of the Society.

A work is announced, as in preparation, by Mr. P. L. Simmonds, entitled ‘The History and Statistics of the British and Foreign Newspaper Press.’ The exact nature of the work we cannot, of course, foreknow, and may therefore observe, that a history of the newspaper press, written in a large and philosophic spirit, would be a work of great interest and value; and the statistics, as it is called, would form an important branch of the general inquiry: but a mere bald account of each existing newspaper, its politics, principles, and extent of sale, would be valueless, even if it could be compiled with accuracy, except as a guide to advertisers.

Letters have been received from Dr. Willshire,

dated Morocco, Dec. 15, 1840;—the following are the more interesting extracts:—

“The Vice Consul at Swearah, despatched the letter, of which I was the bearer, from Lord Palmerston to Mr. Hay, H.M. Consul General at Tangier, asking permission from the Sultan for me to travel in his dominions, and expressing my particular desire to travel through the mountainous districts, taking a route from the capital of Morocco along the base of the great range of the Atlas to Tangier, as, from the nature of the climate and country, it would most probably be in these situations my desires would be more amply fulfilled. The Sultan’s answer was to the following effect:—“that the inhabitants of these regions were wild as the beasts; that they were ignorant, barbarous, composed of numerous tribes, speaking a diversity of tongues; that they could not distinguish between a Christian friend and a Christian foe; that all Christians would be in jeopardy amongst them; that he could insure me no safety there, and that therefore he could not allow me to go; but that I might proceed to Morocco, and that the authorities there would give me permission and protection to go where they might think it proper and convenient.” This answer at once put an end to all hopes of travelling within the district of the hills, as neither the Sultan’s permission nor his protection could be had, both of which are absolutely necessary for a Christian travelling in this land of sun and sand. But to return to Swearah.—having arrived in the month of August (and necessity was my master), I entered the country at a time when all was scorched up—sand, sand, sand, barrenness, barrenness, barrenness; so that my hopes rested on the rain, which was expected in about eight weeks time, and when all would be clothed in a mantle of green and beauty. In the meantime, however, I made some excursions near the city, along the banks of the Wadel Gored, a river laid down as taking its rise near Maskoratan, and falling into the sea about three quarters of an hour’s ride from Swearah. Along the river, half an hour’s ride from its source, the *Nerium oleander*, a *Lavandula*, *Statice*, and *Aquilegia*, were all that was to be seen in flower, and these in a few weeks’ time passed off. Land turtles, wild ducks, numerous smaller birds, chameleons, and foxes were seen; and I was told that hyenas and leopards probably might be found higher up. The ornithologist, I think, would be more amply rewarded than a naturalist following any other branch of study. I made excursions likewise to the heights above the Wadel Gored. Here the *Elaeodendron argan* grows in abundance, but it had passed flowering, and the fruit does not ripen till about March; amongst the rigid spiny dwarf trees of this plant, a *Statice* was alone to be found. There was a species of leafless *Euphorbia*, however, which seems to be a denizen of almost every place where nothing else was to be seen but stone or sand. I left Swearah on the 16th of November, and through the whole five days’ journey a Ranunculaceous plant was all that was seen in flower, and this only in one particular spot. On the second day’s journey the thermometer stood at 88° Fah. under the shade of an argan tree, before noon. Whilst at Swearah I saw the fruit of the *Cactus opuntia*, *Ficus Carica* (green), species of arbutus, water-melons, grapes, walnuts, and pomegranates in abundance. These were daily eaten, along with tomatoes and the betel-john. At Morocco, oranges, citrons, limes, sweet lemons, the fruit of a quercus, in other words a long narrow acorn, with the flavour of a Spanish chestnut, dates, &c. are now plentiful. Radishes grow to an enormous size, and these, with the kershuff, are more eaten than any vegetable. I have seen the Imperial gardens at Morocco. Palms (the date chiefly), olives, oranges, sweet-lemons, citrons, limes, pomegranates, roses, violets, and narcissi, together with plenty of saffron and southernwood, are the chief inhabitants of these pleasant places in the hot capital of Barbary. In travelling from Swearah to Maramma, the *Chamaecrops humilis* covers all the hills like brushwood, but very dwarf. Near here antelopes are found in numbers, but they are shy. To-morrow I leave Morocco for Tasremoot, and afterwards proceed from Tasremoot to Oureka, but must return again to Morocco, as the authorities insist on it. They have refused me permission to cross the Atlas, to go to the capital of Suse, the richest province of the empire,

as no one at present is safe upon the road; the tribes are in open rebellion, and all is in confusion. After I return to Morocco, it is my present intention to go to Saffre.”

Letters from Naples state, that on the night of the 4th—5th instant, the town of Reggio was ravaged by an earthquake, which has destroyed the cathedral and five other churches, three chapels, the palace of the provincial government, the Palace of Justice, besides many other public buildings, and nearly all the private houses in the town. Not more than ten or a dozen lives are known to have been lost, but about three hundred persons were wounded; and the inhabitants were driven out, amid the inclemencies of the season, to such shelter as tents and cabins, hastily constructed, could supply. Shocks of earthquake were felt, at the same moment, in Messina, which have likewise done considerable damage; and the calamity has been attributed to the failure of the eruption which has been so long expected from Vesuvius (as we have more than once announced), but all symptoms of which have recently and suddenly disappeared. Subsequent letters speak of shocks in various other places.

While speaking of the ‘*Soirées Opératiques*’ last week, and of the characteristics which distinguished good management from bad, as applied to operas with English text, we did not advert to another attempt, which will decide the truth or falsehood of our principles. This will be made by Mr. Balfé, who announces his intention of opening the English Opera House on the 6th of March, “for the production of operas by the most eminent composers both English and Foreign,”—to commence with a new work of his own and Donizetti’s ‘*Betty*,’—and to perform with a complete orchestra, led by Mr. Loder, and a chorus of sixty voices. Such is the whole amount of promise in his programme, from the modesty of which we argue more than from the pretension of many a former document. The vapouring patriotism which has figured in advertisements and been spoken in prologues on similar occasions, is always repulsive to us; and inquiry has in part justified our anguries, by discovering many sensible purposes and satisfactory arrangements in the new management. The principal *soprano* of the company is to be Madame Balfé; and if half the provincial praise this lady has received since she has appeared in English parts on the stage be deserved, the engagement is as judicious as natural. For tenors, we are to have Mr. Wilson and Mr. Barker; for basses, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Streton. The company has already begun its rehearsals.—Mr. Barnett’s opera is the second work to be given, and several one-act operettas translated from the French as after-pieces. There will be only four performances a week; and a subscription list has been opened for boxes and season-tickets, which is already reported to be in a satisfactory condition. There seems to be, in short, some plan of operation and some elements of permanence in Mr. Balfé’s managerial speculation. We are sure that only vigorous impartiality and judgment in the selection of the new works he is to bring forward, and a resolute maintenance of evenness and finish in performance, are required to draw the public to his theatre; for we repeat once more, that we have never seen any work or undertaking well conceived or well carried out denied its reward in England.

Since we ventured a few hints to the Philharmonic directors, a German correspondent has sent us the programme of four of the Leipzig Subscription Concerts, to which, by a very simple means, great interest is given. The concerts in question form a historical series: the first being devoted to Bach and Handel—the second to Haydn—the third to Mozart—the fourth to Beethoven. Each is to comprise an overture, a violin quartett or trio, a symphony, a vocal chorus, and an air or concerted piece for voices. Judiciously managed,—and for this there is a guarantee in the place,—nothing could be more welcome than such a series.—Beyond the engagements of M. Vieuxtemps and Madame Dorus-Gras, we have not heard of any arrangements for the coming season at our own Classical Concert: “great efforts,” however, on the part of the Directors are announced in all the papers.—A miscellaneous musical rumour or two may be here despatched: one, that Mr. Edward Taylor has received the score of Spohr’s ‘*Fall of Babylon*,’ the new oratorio he

spoken for that Mdlle. sians less she may Berlin. ing st. Dr now we n appear th mours in it complete, to have a riot!

The Fr instant, m chair of t serutinies Ballanche majority y the real Ancelot,— votes, and election Academy as Corresp Economy; and in it Popes, L.

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BURFORD IRAN D'AC Exposition of Richard DUMASCHUS &c., and the district of M. Books, &c. present.

spoken for the Norwich Festival of 1842;—another, that Mlle. Löwe appears to have pleased the Parisians less than she intended, and that it is probable she may return to her own enthusiastic admirers at Berlin. There is a possibility, however, of her singing at Drury Lane in the course of the season, for now we are told that the German Opera is going to appear there.—As to Her Majesty's Theatre, rumours are so countless, and M. Laporte's silence so complete, that it is questionable still whether we are to have an opera with a *ballet* or an opera with a *riot*!

The French Academy, at its meeting of the 28th instant, made an unsuccessful attempt to fill up the chair of the late M. de Bonald, by three successive scrutineers to determine the election between MM. Ballanche, Ancelot, and Kératry. The absolute majority required was 17, the voters being 32; and the real contest lay between Messrs. Ballanche and Ancelot,—the former of whom twice obtained 15 votes, and the latter had on one occasion 16. The election has been postponed for a month.—The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences has named as Corresponding Members in its section of Political Economy, MM. Porter and Alban de Villeneuve, and in its Historical section, the historian of the Popes, Léopold Ranke.

A society of architects has just been formed in the French capital, having as its "leading objects, to unite within a common circle those architects who present the necessary guarantees,—and to study questions of art and practice, viewed principally with relation to public and private interests." At the head of their list, they have placed, as an act of gratitude and respect, the name of the late M. Huyot, Member of the Institute,—who, just before his untimely death, had accepted the presidency of the preparatory committee, charged with the formation of the Society.

The Minister of Public Instruction in France is said to have given an order that drawings shall be made of the windows of the cathedral at Mons, and lithographed copies sent to every numismatic society in France—the object being to assist the learned in such matters, in their researches on the subject of the coinage system of that country. These windows, it appears, painted about the thirteenth century, represent different scenes connected with the fabrication of money at that period. In one compartment, workmen are busied in placing the coins in, or withdrawing them from the machine for stamping them.—In another the assayers are weighing them.—and in a third, the money-changers are come in search of the newly-coined pieces. Around, are tables covered with shovels and vases full of coin.

The French papers announce more than one vacancy occasioned by death in the ranks of literature and science. The University has lost one of its most distinguished members, in the person of M. François Noël, Inspector General of Public Instruction, to which office he was appointed by Napoleon, when First Consul. While on this subject, we may mention, that the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of Herr Wilken, Royal Librarian at Berlin, Mr. Prins, the Secretary to the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and Sir Spencer Stanhope, in the ranks of the Foreign Corresponding Members of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, have been filled up respectively by the names of Herr Kosegarten, Professor of Arabic in the University of Greifswald, Herr Lassen, Professor of Sanscrit at Bonn, and Mr. Gairdner, the Oxford Professor.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, FALL MALL.

The Gallery for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the Works of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

Will positively be closed on SATURDAY NEXT, the 20th. NEW EXHIBITION, representing THE SHRINE OF THE NATIVITY at Bethlehem, painted by M. Rénoir, from a sketch made on the spot by David Roberts, Esq. A.R.A., in 1839. The spectator may almost suppose himself in the very birth-place of the Saviour. —Times. Also, THE CORONATION of Queen Victoria in Westminster Abbey, by M. Bouton. Open from Ten till Four.

BURFORD'S PANORAMA OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF ST. JEAN D'ACRE, Leicester-square, JUST OPENED, with the assistance of the Magazine—the distant views of Mount Carmel and Richard Cour de Lion. Also open, a splendid View of DAMASCUS; comprising the Cemetery, the Grand Mosque, &c., and the distant view of the Libanus and Desert, embodying a district of country of vast extent.—Admission to each view, 1s.; Books, 6d. each.—N.B. The circles are warmed for the season.

Under the Patronage of Her MAJESTY and His Royal Highness Prince ALBERT.—THE ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ADELPHI-STREET, WEST STRAND.—The principle of the Oxy-hydrogen Light is more extensively applied at this Institution than at others, in the exhibition of various beautiful applications of Optical principles, by means of Mr. E. M. Clark's Polariscopes, Biscanoscopes, Microscopes, &c.; the Pyroditrope, Steam-Gun, Living Electrical Cell, and other most complete and extensive Magnetical and Electrical Apparatus; innumerable Specimens of novel applications of Science to the Arts, Music, Painting, Statuary, Models of Buildings, &c.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d. Children under fourteen years of age, 6d.—Open from half-past Ten till Five daily.

THE THAMES TUNNEL.

is OPEN every day, (except Sundays), from Nine o'clock in the Morning until Six p.m.—Admission 1s. each. Entrance, on the Surrey side of the River, close to Rotherhithe Church. The Tunnel is brilliantly lighted with gas. Visitors can now walk under the entire breadth of the river, and approach the SHIELD, WHICH IS ADVANCED TO WITHIN LIMITS OF HIGH WATER MARK AT WAPPING.

Company's Office. By order, J. CHARLIER, Clerk to the Company.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Abstract of papers read at recent meetings:—

Supplement to a paper 'On the Theoretical Explanation of an apparent new Polarity in Light,' by George B. Airy, Esq., M.A., Astronomer Royal.—In a paper published in the second part of the Philosophical Transactions for 1840, the author explained, on the undulatory theory of light, the phenomena observed by Sir David Brewster, and apparently indicating a new polarity in light. That explanation was founded on the assumption that the spectrum was viewed out of focus; an assumption which corresponded with the observation of the author and of other persons. But the author having, since the publication of that memoir, been assured by Sir David Brewster that the phenomenon was most certainly observed with great distinctness when the spectrum was viewed so accurately in focus that many of Fraunhofer's finer lines could be seen, he has continued the theoretical investigation for that case, which had been omitted in the former memoir, namely, when the spectrum is viewed in focus; and he has arrived at a result, which appears completely to reconcile the seemingly conflicting statements, and to dispel the obscurity in which the subject had hitherto been enveloped.

* Description of a Percussion Shell to explode at the bottom of the Sea,' by Captain J. Norton.—An iron tube, like the barrel of a musket, is screwed into a shell of any size, water-tight. A rod of iron, about half a pound in weight and a foot in length, is suspended within the tube, by means of a split quill passing through a hole in the upper end of the rod, the other end being armed with a percussion-cap. The mouth of the tube is closed with a screw lid, also water-tight. Tin or brass wings being attached to the upper end of the tube will keep it in a vertical position during its descent to the bottom of the sea; and the shock on its striking the bottom will cause the bar of iron within the tube to fall, and produce the percussion and explosion. Should it be found difficult to make the shell water-proof, I am satisfied that percussion powder made from silver will explode by friction or percussion even when mixed with water.

* Description of the Electro-magnetic Clock,' by C. Wheatstone, Esq.—The object of the apparatus is stated by the author to be that of enabling a single clock to indicate exactly the same time in as many different places, distant from each other, as may be required. Thus, in an astronomical observatory, every room may be furnished with an instrument, simple in its construction, and therefore little liable to derangement, and of trifling cost, which shall indicate the time, and beat dead seconds audibly, with the same precision as the standard astronomical clock with which it is connected; thus obviating the necessity of having several clocks, and diminishing the trouble of winding up and regulating them separately. In like manner, in public offices and large establishments, one good clock will serve the purpose of indicating the precise time in every part of the building where it may be required, and an accuracy insured which it would be difficult to obtain by independent clocks, even putting the difference of cost out of consideration. Other cases in which the invention might be advantageously employed were also mentioned. In the electro-magnetic clock, which was exhibited in action in the apartments of the Society, all the parts employed in a clock for maintaining and regulating the power are entirely

dispensed with. It consists simply of a face with its second, minute, and hour hands, and of a train of wheels which communicate motion from the arbor of the second's hand to that of the hour hand, in the same manner as in an ordinary clock train; a small electro-magnet is caused to act upon a peculiarly constructed wheel (scarcely capable of being described without a figure) placed on the second's arbor, in such manner that whenever the temporary magnetism is either produced or destroyed, the wheel, and consequently the second's hand, advances a sixtieth part of its revolution. It is obvious, then, that if an electric current can be alternately established and arrested, each resumption and cessation lasting for a second, the instrument now described, although unprovided with any internal maintaining or regulating power, would perform all the usual functions of a perfect clock. The manner in which this apparatus is applied to the clocks, so that the movements of the hands of both may be perfectly simultaneous, is the following. On the axis which carries the scape-wheel of the primary clock a small disc of brass is fixed, which is first divided on its circumference into sixty equal parts; each alternate division is then cut out and filled with a piece of wood, so that the circumference consists of thirty regular alternations of wood and metal. An extremely light brass spring, which is screwed to a block of ivory or hard wood, and which has no connexion with the metallic parts of the clock, rests by its free end on the circumference of the disc. A copper wire is fastened to the fixed end of the spring, and proceeds to one end of the wire of the electro-magnet; while another wire attached to the clock-frame is continued until it joins the other end of that of the same electro-magnet. A constant voltaic battery, consisting of a few elements of very small dimensions, is interposed in any part of the circuit. By this arrangement the circuit is periodically made and broken, in consequence of the spring resting for one second on a metal division, and the next second on a wooden division. The circuit may be extended to any length; and any number of electro-magnetic instruments may be thus brought into sympathetic action with the standard clock. It is only necessary to observe, that the force of the battery and the proportion between the resistances of the electro-magnetic coils and those of the other parts of the circuit, must, in order to produce the maximum effect with the least expenditure of power, be varied to suit each particular case. In the concluding part of the paper, the author points out several other and very different methods of effecting the same purpose; and in particular one in which Faraday's magneto-electric currents are employed, instead of the current produced by a voltaic battery; he also describes a modification of the sympathetic instrument, calculated to enable it to act at great distances with a weaker electric current than if it were constructed on the plan first described.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 8.—G. B. Greenough, Esq., President, in the chair.

1. Some account of the Frozen Soil in North America, by Mr. George Bramston, communicated by Dr. Richardson, with some remarks of his own on the subject generally, and on Mr. Bramston's experiments in particular, was read.

Mr. Bramston says, that in consequence of the printed communication from Dr. Richardson, he has endeavoured to obtain what information he could on the subject of frozen soil. His experiments were made at Martin's Falls, Albany River, thirty miles below Gloucester, and about 300 feet above the level of the sea, on the confines of the great basin of James' Bay, an immense extension of the older calcareous strata. Between Martin's Falls and the coast, the bed of the river is composed of limestones and clays, both yielding extinct genera of shells; while in passing up the stream to the interior, there is little to be seen but gneiss and greenstone schists, with a mixture here and there of fossil granitic rocks. The fossils of the neighbourhood are principally of the genera Spirifer, Producta, Terebratula, and impressions of Trilobites, the former of these in excellent preservation. The thermometer used by Mr. Bramston in his experiments was a mercurial one, made by Jones, of London. The heat in the shade

was taken immediately before and after each observation of the temperature of the soil by the same instrument. The first observation made was on the 19th of September 1839, at three different spots, in a place thirty feet above the level of the river; the temperature of the air being 57° Fahr., that of the soil at (a) 6 inches from the surface, was 48½°; at 18 inches 44½°. At (b) 6 inches below the surface, the temperature was 52°; at 18 in. 47½°; and at 22 in. 45°. At (c), a hundred paces from (a), and at 6 inches below the surface, the temperature was 48½°; at 18 in. 44½°. At these several extreme depths Mr. Bramston was interrupted by water. The second experiment was made on the 28th of September. The temperature in the shade of the wood being 35°, that of the soil on the banks of the river was as follows:—At the depth of 8 in. 37°; at 18 in. 39°; at 30 in. 41½°; at 36 in. 42°; at 50 in. 42½°; at 60 in. 43°. The third observation was made on the 30th of September, 24 feet above the river; the temperature in the shade being 35°, that of the soil was—at 10 in. 35°; at 20 in. 35½°; at 24 in. 37°; at 36 in. 38½°; at 42 in. 40½°; at 48 in. 41½°; at 60 in. 41½°; at 72 in. 41½°—these last three wet; at 78 in. 42°. At the conclusion of this observation the thermometer in the shade stood at 47°; and upon opening our vault, says Mr. Bramston, and leaving it there, it fell to 42°.

The fourth observation was made on the 2nd of December. The thermometer in the shade stood at 32°; when sunk into the loose earth, at the bottom of a potato vault, it stood at 42½°. Six more observations were made in the same vault as follows:—

Observation.	Date.	Temperature in the shade.	Temperature of potato vault.
No. 5	Dec. 31, 1839	0	38° Fahr.
6	Feb. 1, 1840	+ 2	35
7	Feb. 29	+ 30	36
8	March 28	+ 45	38
9	April 25	+ 35	38
10	June 1	+ 56	41

This vault is covered with five or six feet of earth, has rather a southern aspect, and the entrance in winter is blocked up with hay. On the 11th of April a hole was dug, when the men employed reached a depth of six feet in solidly frozen gravelly loam without coming to thawed earth. A thermometer plunged into the loose fragments stood at 41° Fahr. In the air it was slightly higher. On the 14th of May, men who were employed in digging penetrated through twenty inches of frozen crust, and then came to loose sand and gravelly loam perfectly thawed. This spot was only 100 paces distant from the place of trial of the 11th of April, but the circumstances were such as to account for the facts. In the month of October, 1836, a man employed in raising pine roots could not succeed in one case, being arrested at the depth of twenty-four inches by solid ice and frozen earth, which must have existed of course all the year round.

From these observations, says Mr. Bramston, it is pretty evident that we have a portion of our soil, at a slight depth, permanently frozen, but that in situations exposed to the sun, and in particular soils, the earth is thoroughly thawed during the summer. Were I to offer an opinion of my own, he adds, I would say that the line where the frost under the surface begins to become permanent, may run near the coast between Equan River and Cape Henrietta Maria, crossing the Severn River, and then pursuing a north-westerly course along the Upper Mississippi, and approaching the Rocky Mountains by that part of Peace River which lies between Smoky River and Finlay's Fork. To the westward of the mountains the climate, from the neighbourhood of the Pacific, or some other cause, is milder than on this side. Our summer months are warmer than along the coast of the Bay; the great body of sea water with masses of floating ice keeping all cool in that quarter. In advancing farther into the interior, the rise of temperature evidently increases, as is proved by numerous facts. Although in winter we have the cold of Russia, in July and August we enjoy the climate of Germany and of the north of France. The plains of the Columbia, and the extensive tract of country lying between them and California, with the exception of 120 miles next the coast, possess a very arid atmosphere, and a much milder climate in winter, than the same parallels on the eastern side of the continent. It may be remarked, that the ground is

almost entirely of volcanic origin. Dr. Richardson states that observations had already been made in 1835 and 1836, and, among others, that on the 2nd and 3rd of September, 1835, a pit had been dug at the mouth of Albany River, in lat. 52½° N., long. 82° W., about thirty miles below the place where Mr. Bramston's observations were made. This pit, which was sunk in a stiff brown clay soil, showed 15 inches of thawed soil on the surface, 3 feet 7 inches of frozen clay, and 2 inches of clay so hard that it required to be cut with an ice chisel. This, says Dr. Richardson, is a much more unequivocal indication of a permanently frozen stratum of soil than was observed by Mr. Bramston higher up the river; and the difference may be attributed to the masses of floating ice, which remaining undissolved nearly the whole summer on the western side of James's Bay, lower the mean temperature of the coast. Prof. Forbes has shown that warmth is propagated slowly and progressively by conduction from the surface to the inferior strata of the earth, and that consequently the summer heats have long passed before their effect on the subsoil has attained its maximum depth. He has also stated, that there is a depth at which the annual range (or difference of the effect of summer's heat and winter's cold) disappears, and where consequently, at places whose mean heat is under 32° Fahr., the subsoil is permanently frozen downwards, until it begins to thaw under the influence of the interior heat of the earth,—i. e., if the theory of the existence of an internal source of heat be correct. Within the limits, however, of the extreme annual range for any considerable epoch, there must be variations, caused by the inequality of the seasons; and the results of a severe winter, followed by a cold summer, may be detected several seasons afterwards in a layer of ice much nearer the surface than the permanently frozen stratum would theoretically be placed, in localities whose mean heat is but little below the freezing point. When a pit happens to be dug after a series of fine summers and mild winters, the reverse would of course occur. These considerations induce us to wish that the pits dug at the various posts of the Hudson's Bay Company had been carried to a greater depth. An important point will be gained, however, if the depth at which the influence of the seasons reaches in different latitudes be ascertained, and also if the number of observations enables us to discover what the difference of the conducting power of the various soils, which seems to be very great, really is.

2. A memoir, by the Chevalier Paravey, On the Kin-tou-moey, Primitive Greeks, Scandinavians, Normans, and Anglo-Saxons, and on the Eight or Ten Degrees of Latitude gained by the land on the north of Asia upon the Sea, which has become more and more encumbered with ice, till the navigation of it is no longer possible.

This paper was elucidated by a Sino-Japanese map. The writer endeavours to substantiate his opinion by various extracts from ancient authors, and from the observations of Mr. Hedenstrom on the island of Nov Siberia, made in 1809, and discussed in the 8th vol. of the 'Nouveau Journal Asiatique de Paris,' as also from the fact mentioned by M. Arago, that naval combats between the Dutch and French formerly took place to the north of Spitzbergen, then unencumbered with ice. The Chevalier also calls to his aid the etymology of the Chinese names of places and people inhabiting the northern shore of Asia, to prove that while they inhabited more southern regions than at present, their occupations were such as could be carried on only along the coast, then much less extended towards the north. The strongest point of the argument appears to be the measurement of the shadow of a gnomon so late as after 1260, ordered by the Chinese Emperor Kobi-lay, whence it was deduced, as may be seen in the 'Bibliothèque Orientale' d'Herbelot, tom. iv. p. 171, that the latitude of the coast then ranged from 62° to 64°, instead of 70°, as at present. As the whole paper is a collection of extracts and deductions from these, it is impossible to do justice to it by abridgment, and it is too long to give entire. The Chevalier, who is himself a Chinese scholar, strongly insists upon the advantages to be derived by geographical science from a knowledge of the Chinese books, the translation of which he forcibly recommends. This paper, though the general impression was unfavourable to the Chevalier's hypothesis, gave

rise to a good deal of conversation on the change of climate in the north, the presumed former connexion of the Frozen Ocean with the Caspian, according to the idea of Humboldt, Pallas, and others.

Among the donations was a tinted lithographic portrait of the Chevalier Schomburgk, dedicated and presented to the Society by Mr. Gauci.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Jan. 16.—Prof. Wilson in the chair.—General F. W. Wilson was elected a resident member.

Prof. Royle read a paper 'On the Identity of certain vegetable productions of the East, with those mentioned in ancient authors.'

Feb. 6.—Prof. Wilson in the chair.—The Secretary read an extract from a journal kept by Sir Charles Malcolm, during a journey which he performed in 1839, between Cosseir and Alexandria, in the course of which he visited the granite quarries of Hammamet. This extract should have accompanied the portion of a sarcophagus from the tombs of the kings, and a specimen of granite from the quarries, which were presented on a former occasion; but by some accident it did not, until now, reach the Society. On the 22nd January the party traversed two rocky passes, which, Sir Charles observes, are the only obstacles to driving a carriage all the way from the Nile to the Red Sea; and these are short, and might easily be rendered practicable. He found near one of these spots, some tents of desert Arabs, whose miserable inmates were feeding on the flesh of a camel which had died on the road. Some time after, they reached the ancient quarries of Hammamet, where they stayed two hours to explore the workings, on which the mark of the chisel and other tools were as visible and as fresh as the day when they were first made. The stones are very large; and come out in square, smooth masses, which may be had of any size, the only difficulty being to get them down without breaking. It is of a dark red granite, though called by the guides porphyry; but the real porphyry quarries lie some miles to the northward. It takes a fine polish, and is as heavy as iron: figures of men, women, various animals and birds, are carved on all sides, as well as numerous hieroglyphics, some of which are very well executed. On the 1st of the following February Sir Charles visited the tombs of the kings, and saw there an ancient sarcophagus of red granite, conjectured to have been made for a king called *Iskaï*, whose images are all defaced, and whose sarcophagus is broken,—a punishment inflicted by posterity on usurpers and tyrants. One of the fragments was the piece lying on the table, containing a figure of Isis, very beautiful, and in good preservation.

The next paper read was a report on the Peggannah of Chota Nagpore, by Mr. Cuthbert, a resident magistrate. This report was communicated to the Society by the East India Company. Chota Nagpore is a district measuring about 95 by 50 miles, and is situated about 200 miles W.N.W. of Calcutta. Its aspect is generally hilly and jungly, and much is uncultivated; but some portions of it are highly productive, and, from the quantity of rain falling, these are often found to produce largely in seasons when the harvests in the neighbouring countries have failed altogether. They are, from the same cause, very unhealthy; and during the rains the climate in those parts may be reckoned deadly. This paper being a *resumé* of the observations of a person residing on the spot during a considerable period, is incapable of much abridgment; and we can only find room for some prominent portions. Little is known of the history of the district. It appears to have been divided into a number of petty chiefships until conquered by the ancestor of the present Rájá, about a century and a half ago. The Rájá was a young man who had held the rāj for about four years at the time the report was made. He seemed well disposed, but left all business to his ministers, who appeared to have the usual Oriental disposition to oppression and rapacity when uncontrolled by the intervention of the British government. The native rule appears to be a perfect feudalism. Aids of money are collected from the subjects at the Rájá's accession, and his marriage, when he goes on a pilgrimage, when he visits the magistrate; in fine, whatever he wants it. Every kind of extortion is practised under these pretences; but of late a close super-

intender are six until those was only its devalued, and to follow the jagh-lords, the Bhungia rally sup-dwellers arrived from most mo-villages hill tribes dús to be good sub- among wretched coarsest though b-telligible other H-various g-the hills found in up in the is a diam-conceal a-revenue 400,000 government 5,000 m-crimes of the usual superstitious landholders consequen-lodged he very trifl-of rice; 1-lives.

Jan. 8. The fol- 'Rema- relative to of Differ- those Me- to some c-terminated and other no very d- till toward the cosmic and fire-b- were gene- which we- others to t- lated in t- 1794, Ch- which he- nations of different have not a- nical mas- with veloc- when they- flamed by- huminous, -tering mas- opinion w- posted and- stones, and- present ar- widely dif- the earth, most ac- fire-balls a- ability in of meteor- scribe a- At this p- from whic- formed res- described which the

intendence had much checked the system. There are six subordinate rajas under the chief raja; but until the rise of the British power their dependence was only nominal; a state of petty warfare, with all its devastation and misery, was constantly maintained, and the subjects of each chief were all held bound to follow their respective leaders to the field. Besides the jaghirdars, or regular feudal followers of their lords, there is a considerable body of the Kole and Bhungia tribe, called Mankies and Mandas, generally supposed to be descended from the aboriginal dwellers in India, and speaking languages not derived from the Sanskrit. These people dwell in the most mountainous parts of the province; they hold villages at a fixed rent; and though, like the other hill tribes of India, they are considered by the Hindús to be a lawless race, they have proved themselves good subjects of our government. The peasantry among these people live poorly; their huts are wretchedly constructed, and their food is of the coarsest kind. The languages of distant tribes, although believed to be from the same root, are unintelligible to each other, and are rarely understood by other Hindús. Rice, cotton, the sugar-cane, and various grains are cultivated in Chota Nagpore; and the hills produce lac, gum, and silk. Iron ore is found in considerable quantities, and gold is picked up in the beds of the rivers. It is also said that there is a diamond mine; but the raja and landholders conceal all knowledge of any such existing. The revenue derived by the raja is stated to be above 400,000 rupees; but the demands of the British government amount only to 26,000, out of which 5,000 may be deducted for expenses. Among the crimes of the province, murder stands prominent; the usual motives to its perpetration are jealousy, superstition, or revenge. In one case a substantial landholder hired assassins to murder a neighbour, in consequence of a grudge arising from a complaint lodged before the magistrate. The price was a very trifling sum of money, and a few maunds of rice; but the perpetrators paid the forfeit of their lives.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 8.—F. Baily, Esq., V.P. in the chair.

The following communication was read:—

'Remarks on the Present State of our Knowledge relative to Shooting-Stars, and on the Determination of Differences of Longitude from Observations of those Meteors.' By Mr. Galloway. After advertent to some of the earlier opinions which have been entertained on the nature of fire-balls, shooting-stars, and other igneous meteors, the author remarks that no very definite theory was formed respecting them till towards the end of the last century; for although the comical origin of the more remarkable bolides and fire-balls had been suspected, the shooting-stars were generally regarded as atmospheric phenomena, which were ascribed by some to electricity, and by others to the inflammation of hydrogen gas accumulated in the higher regions of the atmosphere. In 1794, Chladni published his celebrated work, in which he gave a catalogue of all the recorded observations of fire-balls; and, from a comparison of the different descriptions, inferred that these meteors have not their origin in our atmosphere, but are cosmical masses moving through the planetary spaces with velocities equal to those of the planets, which, when they encounter the earth's atmosphere, are inflamed by the resistance and friction, and become luminous, sometimes bursting into pieces, and scattering masses of stone and iron on the ground. This opinion was at first greatly ridiculed; but the repeated and even not infrequent fall of meteoric stones, and the discovery by Howard that all of them present an almost perfect similarity of constitution, widely different from that of any substance found on the earth, at length forced conviction even on the most sceptical. From the close resemblance between fire-balls and shooting-stars, and, indeed, the impossibility in many cases of distinguishing the one class of meteors from the other, Chladni was led also to ascribe a comical origin to the latter phenomena. At this period, however, there were no observations from which precise or certain conclusions could be formed respecting the altitudes, velocities, or paths described by the shooting-stars—the elements by which the question of their existence within or be-

yond the atmosphere could be solved. In the year 1798, the first series of observations for determining these points was undertaken in Germany by Brandes and Benzenberg. Having selected a base-line of about nine English miles in length, and stationed themselves at its extremities, they began to observe on nights previously agreed on; and when a meteor was seen, they immediately traced its apparent path on a celestial map, noting carefully the exact times of its appearance and extinction, with any other circumstances likely to assist in identifying it. The meteors observed simultaneously at both stations were in this manner recognized with considerable certainty; and the comparison of their paths on the two maps afforded data for the determination of their parallaxes and altitudes. The results were as follows:—Between the 11th of September and the 4th of November, 1798, only twenty-two corresponding observations were obtained from which the altitudes could be computed. The altitude of the lowest was about 6 English miles; there were seven under 45 miles; nine between 45 and 90 miles; six above 90 miles; and one had an altitude of about 140 miles. There were only two observations from which the velocity could be deduced; the first gave 25 miles, and the second from 17 to 21 miles in a second. The most remarkable result was, that at least one of the meteors moved upwards, or away from the earth. By these observations, the perfect similarity between fire-balls and shooting-stars, in respect of velocity and altitude, was completely established. Another attempt, on a more extensive scale, to determine the altitudes and velocities of shooting-stars, by means of simultaneous observations, was made by Brandes in 1823, assisted by a number of associates resident in Breslau and the neighbouring towns. The observations were continued from April to October, and during this interval about 1800 shooting-stars were observed at the different places, out of which number ninety-eight were found which had been observed simultaneously at more than one station. The altitudes of four of these were computed to be under 15 English miles: of fifteen between 15 and 30 miles; of twenty-two between 30 and 45 miles; of thirty-five between 45 and 70 miles; of thirteen between 70 and 90 miles; and of eleven above 90 miles. Two of these last had an altitude of about 140 miles; one of 220 miles; one of 280; and there was one whose height was computed to exceed 460 miles. Thirty-six orbits were obtained; in twenty-six of which the motion was downwards, in one horizontal, and in the remaining nine more or less upwards. In three cases only the observations were so complete as to furnish data for determining the velocity; the results were respectively 23, 28, and 37 English miles in a second, the last being nearly double the velocity of the earth in its orbit. The trajectories were frequently not straight lines, but incurvated, sometimes horizontally, and sometimes vertically, and sometimes they were of a serpentine form. The predominating direction of the motion was from north-east to south-west, contrary to the motion of the earth in its orbit,—a circumstance which has been generally remarked, and which is important in respect of the physical theory of the meteors. A similar set of observations was made in Belgium in 1824, under the direction of M. Quetelet, the results of which are published in the *Annaire de Bruxelles* for 1837. M. Quetelet was chiefly solicitous to determine the velocity of the meteors. He obtained six corresponding observations from which this element could be deduced, and the results varied from 10 to 25 English miles in a second. The mean of the six results gave a velocity of nearly 17 miles per second, a little less than that of the earth in its orbit. The last set of corresponding observations referred to in the paper was made in Switzerland, on the 10th of August, 1838; a circumstantial account of which is given by M. Wartmann, in Quetelet's *Correspondance Mathématique*, for July, 1839. M. Wartmann, and five other observers, provided with celestial charts, stationed themselves at the Observatory of Geneva; and the corresponding observations were made by M. Reynier and an assistant, at Planchettes, a village about sixty miles to the north-east of that city. In the space of seven and a half hours, the number of meteors observed by the six observers at Geneva was 381; and during five and a half hours, the number

observed at Planchettes by two observers was 104. All the circumstances of the phenomena—the place of the apparition and disappearance of each meteor, the time it continued visible, its brightness relatively to the fixed stars, whether accompanied with a train, &c., were carefully noted. The trajectories were then projected on a large planisphere. The extent of the trajectories described by the meteors was very different, varying from 8° to 70° of angular space, and the velocities appeared also to differ considerably; but the average velocity concluded by M. Wartmann was 25° per second. It was found, from the comparison of the simultaneous observations, that the average height above the ground was about 550 miles; and hence the relative velocity was computed to be about 240 miles in a second. But as the greater number moved in a direction opposite to that of the earth in its orbit, the relative velocity must be diminished by the earth's velocity (about 19 miles in a second). This still leaves upwards of 220 miles per second for the absolute velocity of the meteor, which is more than eleven times the orbital velocity of the earth, seven and a half times that of the planet *Mercury*, and probably greater than that of the comets at their perihelia. From the above results, it is obvious that the heights and velocities of the shooting-stars are exceedingly various and uncertain; but if the observations are in any respect worthy of confidence, they prove that many of these meteors (according to Wartmann's observations, by far the greater number) are, during the time of their visibility, far beyond the limits to which atmosphere is supposed to extend, and that their velocities greatly exceed that which is due to bodies moving at the same distance from the sun under the influence of solar gravitation. It is perhaps impossible to form any correct estimate of the absolute magnitudes of the meteors. Their apparent magnitudes differ greatly; the greater number resembling stars of the third or fourth magnitude, while many are equal to stars of the first, and some even surpass *Jupiter* and *Venus* in brilliancy. It is remarkable that the largest are those which have the greatest altitude, and only the smaller ones appear to come within 20 or even 40 miles of the earth. With respect to the casual observations of the phenomena, the accounts of which are very numerous, the most interesting conclusion which has been inferred from them is the periodical recurrence of shooting-stars in unusual numbers at certain epochs of the year. Of these epochs, the most remarkable is that of November, on account of the prodigious number of meteors which have been seen in some years at that time. The principal displays were in 1799, 1832, 1833, and 1834. On the 11th of November, 1799, thousands were observed within a few hours by Humboldt and Bonpland at Cumana; and on the same night by different persons over the whole continent of America, from the borders of Brazil to Labrador, and also in Greenland and Germany. On the 12th of November, 1832, they were seen over the whole of the north of Europe; and on the 12th of November, 1833, the stupendous exhibition took place in North America, which has been so often described. From the accounts of this phenomenon collected by Prof. Olmsted, M. Arago computed that the number of meteors on this night amounted to 240,000. In 1834, a similar phenomenon recurred on the night of the 13th of November, but on this occasion the meteors were of a smaller size. In 1835, 1836, and 1838, shooting stars were observed on the night of the 13th of November, in different parts of the world; but though diligently looked for on the same night in the last few years, they do not appear to have been more numerous than on other nights about the same season,—a circumstance which has shaken the faith of many in their periodicity. The second great meteoric epoch is the 10th of August, first pointed out by M. Quetelet; and although no displays similar to those of the November period have been witnessed on this night, there are more instances of the recurrence of the phenomena. In the last three years shooting-stars have been observed in great numbers, both on the 9th and 10th; but they appear in general to be unusually abundant during the two first weeks in August. The other periods which have been indicated are the 18th of October, the 23rd or 24th of April, the 6th and 7th of December, from the 15th to the 30th of June, and the 2nd of January;

and it is not improbable that further observations will add to the number.

The different theories which have been given to explain the origin and phenomena of the shooting-stars are next stated. The following are the principal:—

1. That the shooting-stars and fire-balls are substances projected from volcanoes in the moon. It is known that a body projected vertically from the moon with a velocity of about 8500 feet in a second would not fall back upon the lunar surface, but would recede from it indefinitely; and in order to reach the earth the projectile would only require, under the most favourable circumstances, to have a velocity of about 8300 feet. Such a velocity, which is only about four or five times greater than that of a cannon-ball, is quite conceivable; but the extraordinary exhibitions of 1799 and 1833, to say nothing of their supposed periodicity, is utterly irreconcilable with the theory of a lunar origin. Benzenberg, however, adopts this theory, and supposes the shooting-stars to be small masses of stone, from one to five feet in diameter, which are projected from lunar volcanoes, and circulate about the earth or about the sun when their projectile velocity exceeds a certain limit.

2. Dr. Olbers, and some other astronomers, have supposed the shooting-stars to be the *débris*, or fragments of a large planet, burst into pieces by some internal explosion, of which *Ceres*, *Pallas*, *Juno*, and *Vesta*, are the principal remaining portions. The smaller fragments continue to circulate about the sun in orbits of great eccentricity, and when they approach the region of space through which the earth is moving, they enter the atmosphere with great velocity, and by reason of the resistance and friction are rendered incandescent, and emit a vivid light so long as they remain within it.

3. It has been suggested by Biot that the extraordinary displays observed in November may be explained by supposing the meteors to have their origin in the zodiacal light. The extent of this lens-shaped nebula is not well ascertained; but as the plane of its principal section is not parallel to the ecliptic, if the earth passes through it at one season, it must be remote from it at another. But shooting-stars are observed at all times of the year; and the November meteors differ from those of other seasons in no respect excepting in their greater multitude.

4. The hypothesis first suggested by Chladni is that which appears to have met with most favour, having been adopted by Arago and other eminent astronomers of the present day to explain the November phenomena. It consists in supposing that, independently of the great planets, there exist in the planetary regions myriads of small bodies which circulate about the sun, generally in groups or zones, and that one of these zones intersects the ecliptic about the place through which the earth passes in November. The principal difficulties attending this theory are the following:—First, that bodies moving in groups in the circumstances supposed must necessarily move in the same direction, and consequently, when they become visible from the earth, would all appear to emanate from one point and move towards the opposite. Now although the observations seem to show that the predominating direction is from north-east to south-west, yet shooting-stars are observed on the same nights to emanate from all points of the heavens, and to move in all possible directions. Secondly, their average velocity (especially as determined by Wartmann) greatly exceeds that which any body circulating about the sun can have at the distance of the earth. Thirdly, from their appearance and the luminous train which they generally leave behind them, and which often remains visible for several seconds, sometimes for whole minutes, and also from their being situated within the earth's shadow, and at heights far exceeding those at which the atmosphere can be supposed capable of supporting combustion, it is manifest that their light is not reflected from the sun; they must therefore be self-luminous, which is contrary to every analogy of the solar system. Fourthly, if masses of solid matter approach so near the earth as many of the shooting-stars do, some of them would inevitably be attracted to it; but of the thousands of shooting-stars which have been observed, there is no authenticated instance of any one having actually reached the earth. Fifthly, instead of the meteors being attracted to the earth,

some of them are observed actually to rise upwards, and to describe orbits which are convex towards the earth; a circumstance of which, on the present hypothesis, it seems difficult to give any rational explanation.

5. The most recent hypothesis is that of Capocci of Naples, who regards the aurora borealis, shooting-stars, aerolites, and comets, as having all the same origin, and as resulting from the aggregation of cosmical atoms, brought into union by magnetic attraction. He supposes that in the planetary spaces there exist bands or zones of nebulous particles, more or less fine, and endued with magnetic forces, which the earth traverses in its annual revolution; that the smallest and most impalpable of these particles are occasionally precipitated on the magnetic poles of our globe, and form polar auroras; that the particles of a degree larger, in which the force of gravitation begins to be manifested, are attracted by the earth and appear as shooting-stars; that the particles in a more advanced state of concretion give rise in like manner to the phenomena of fire-balls, aerolites, &c.; that the comets, which are known to have very small masses, are nothing else than the largest of the aerolites, or rather *uranolites*, which in course of time collect a sufficient quantity of matter to be visible from the earth. This theory of Capocci differs from Chladni's only by the introduction of magnetic forces among the particles, and it is obvious that all the objections to the former theory apply with equal force to this. It may be remarked, however, that some physical connexion between the phenomena of shooting-stars and aurora had been already suspected, and the observations adduced by M. Quetelet afford reason to suppose that the latter phenomenon is also periodical.

From the difficulties attending every hypothesis which has hitherto been proposed, it may be inferred how very little real knowledge has yet been obtained respecting the nature of the shooting-stars. It is certain that they appear at great altitudes above the earth, and that they move with prodigious velocity; but everything else respecting them is involved in profound mystery. From the whole of the facts M. Wartmann thinks that the most rational conclusion we can adopt is, that the meteors probably owe their origin to the disengagement of electricity, or of some analogous matter, which takes place in the celestial regions on every occasion in which the conditions necessary for the production of the phenomena are renewed. The concluding part of the paper contains an account of the different attempts which have been made to deduce differences of longitude from the observation of shooting-stars. That meteors which appear and are extinguished so suddenly, and which by reason of their great altitude and brilliancy are visible over considerable portions of the earth's surface, would afford excellent natural signals, provided they could be identified with certainty, was an obvious thought; but so long as they were regarded merely as casual phenomena, it could scarcely be hoped that they would be of much use, in this respect, to practical astronomy. As soon, however, as their periodicity became probable, the observation of the phenomena acquired a new interest. In observing the meteors for this purpose, it is assumed that they appear instantaneously to observers stationed at a distance from each other, and that the meteors seen by different observers so placed are identically the same. These points are not altogether free from uncertainty; but the results of the trials that have been already made may be regarded as favourable, and as showing that among the other methods of determining astronomical positions, the observation of shooting-stars is not to be disregarded. At the November meeting of this Society, in 1839, an account was given of Professor Schumacher's observations at Altona on the night of the 10th of August, 1838. On the same night corresponding observations were made at several observatories in Germany; but those at Breslaw appear to have been the most successful. From twelve coincident observations at Altona and Breslaw, Professor Boguslawski computed the difference of longitude of the two places to be $28^{\circ} 22'.07$, which differs less than a second from that which had been previously adopted. In Silliman's *American Journal* for October 1840, an account is given of simultaneous observations made on the 25th of November, 1835, at

Philadelphia, and at the College of New Jersey, at Princeton. Seven coincidences were observed, and the mean result gave a longitude differing only 1.2 from the mean of other determinations; the whole difference being two minutes. This appears to have been the first actual determination of a difference of longitude by meteoric observations. In the corresponding observations of Wartmann and Reynier at Geneva and Planchettes, the differences of longitude deduced from three of the meteors, which were attended with peculiarities so remarkable as to leave no doubt of their identity, were respectively $2^{\circ} 3'$, $3'$, $2^{\circ} 5'$, whence it would seem that a single observation may be in error to the amount of several seconds of time. In the *Bibliothèque Universelle de Genève* for August, 1840, there is given an account of the determination by this method of the difference of longitude between Rome and Naples. The corresponding observations were begun in November 1838, and were continued at intervals under the direction of Father Vico at Rome, and of Capocci and Nobili at Naples. The apparent paths of the meteors were traced on a celestial globe, and the times of appearance and extinction compared with clocks regulated by astronomical observations. The observed times of the extinction of the phenomena presented a very satisfactory agreement, inasmuch as it is stated that there was in general a difference of only a few tenths of a second of time between the partial results for a difference of longitude amounting to $7^{\circ} 54'$. The merit of first suggesting the use of shooting-stars and fire-balls as signals for the determination of longitudes is claimed by Dr. Olbers and the German astronomers for Benzenberg who published a work on the subject in 1802. Mr. Bailey, however, has pointed out a paper published by Dr. Maskelyne twenty years previously, in which that illustrious astronomer calls attention to the subject, and distinctly points out this application of the phenomena. The paper, which is printed on a single sheet, is entitled 'A plan for observing the Meteors called Fire-balls, by Nevil Maskelyne, D.D., F.R.S., and Astronomer Royal,' and is dated Greenwich, November 6th, 1783. After recounting some observations, from which he infers that such meteors appear more frequently than is commonly imagined, and stating the particulars to be attended to in observing them, he adds:—"It would be well if those persons who happen to see a meteor would put down the time by their watch when it first appeared, or was at its greatest altitude, or burst, or disappeared, and again when they hear the sound; and as common watches are liable to vary much in a few hours, that they would, as soon after as may be, find the error of their watch by a good regulator; for, if the exact time could be had at different places, the absolute velocity of the meteor, the velocity of the sound propagated to us from the higher regions of the atmosphere, and the longitudes of places, might be determined."

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 6.—The Rev. Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair.

Three communications were read:—

1. 'On the Illustration of Geological Phenomena by Models,' by Mr. Sopwith.—After alluding to the insufficiency of ordinary drawings to represent geological phenomena, where more planes than one are concerned, and to the curiously diversified combinations which the same mass of strata exhibits when viewed on different surfaces, more particularly if traversed by dislocations, Mr. Sopwith proceeded to point out the great facilities which hand models, formed of wood, and capable of being dissected, offered in the study of geology, especially of mines and coal-pits. He illustrated his subject by an extensive series of models, composed of layers of differently-coloured woods, arranged at various angles with respect to the horizon, and in many instances so as to exhibit a series of complicated faults: they were likewise so modelled on the top, as to represent the undulating surface of the ground; and they were capable of being dissected vertically, horizontally, or at planes variously inclined to the horizon. The intricate nature of many of the combinations or intersections was dwelt upon; but it is impossible to render these details intelligible by mere description.

2. 'On the Geology of the Island of Madeira,' by

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Mr. Smith, of Jordan Hill.—The external crust of this island, to the depth of several thousand feet, is composed of alternating beds of sub-aerial basaltic lava, scoria, ashes, tufas, and ancient vegetable soils; and it presents everywhere mural precipices of stupendous heights. To account for its rugged and fragmentary character, Mr. Smith says, it is not necessary to seek, as some observers have done, for unknown causes, there being, in the geological structure of the island, and the known action of its mountain torrents, sufficient sources whence an explanation may be derived of the phenomena presented by its physical features. The lavas, which are wholly basaltic, and abound with crystals of olivine, are either compact, scoriaceous, or vesicular. The compact variety is generally amorphous, or rudely columnar; but it is sometimes schistose, possessing planes of cleavage as well as of regular stratification. It occurs in beds or coulées alternating with the other volcanic products, and in dykes. The scoriaceous basalt resembles the slag of a foundry; and where it forms thin layers, it presents the same characters throughout; but where beds of lava of a certain thickness occur, only the upper and lower surfaces exhibit the scoriaceous structure. Sometimes caverns of considerable size have been formed. In the vesicular variety, the pores penetrate the whole mass; and where they are large, they have been flattened by the gravity of the lava, and elongated in the direction of its motion. In those beds in which the vesicles are very numerous and minute, the stone is used as a building material. The next class of volcanic products consists of bombs, sand, pumiceous lapilli, and ashes. The larger masses, it is evident, were projected into the air simultaneously with the finer materials, for they occur in every part of the strata in which they are found; and they appear to have been half imbedded by the force of their fall, as the laminae on their lower side are bent around them. The pumiceous lapilli are white or light yellow, and are generally very small, rarely exceeding a pigeon's-egg in size. The beds of pumice vary in thickness from a few inches to several feet, and are found either on the surface, or interstratified with the basalt. Dark, heavy cinders, or scoriae, are very often associated with the pumice, without regard to their gravity; and this intermixture Mr. Smith considers to be a proof that they could not have been deposited under the sea, because in water the lighter and heavier materials would have immediately separated. The scoriae or cinders are generally of a reddish hue, and vary in size, forming extensive beds. The white and dark-coloured ashes are loose, except where mixed with earthy ingredients, or where they have fallen on heated materials. Tufas and conglomerates constitute a large portion of the volcanic rocks; and their consistency is considered by Mr. Smith to be due to water. Fragments of plants are by no means uncommon in them; but they do not appear to contain any other organic remains. Many of the beds which had been converted into vegetable soil alternate with the regular volcanic strata, and contain the calcareous casts of the roots of plants, preserving the position in which they grew. It is interesting, Mr. Smith says, to observe evidences of the very same phenomena which are now taking place at the surface, also in strata which have been buried for so many ages beneath solid rocks. Where the soils have been overflowed by lavas, the vegetable remains have been charred, and the earthy materials burnt to the colour and hardness of brick; and, under lavas of great thickness, a columnar structure. The non-volcanic rocks of Madeira are the limestone of San Vincent, the lignite of San George, and the sands of Canical. The limestone was described by Bowdich as belonging to the transition epoch, on account of its resemblance to the calcareous rocks of Alcantara, near Lisbon, but which Mr. Smith assigns to the cretaceous epoch. The limestone of San Vincent forms a bed, which crosses a stream between 2,000 and 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, immediately under the volcanic table-land of Paul de Serra, which possesses a thickness of 2,500 feet. The limestone is intersected by two basaltic dykes, and abounds in corals and marine shells, which do not permit of specific determination. Mr. Smith, however, has no doubt that the deposit belongs to the tertiary era. The lignite, or a bed of vegetable matter resembling lignite, occurs on the

north side of the island, on the banks of one of the tributaries of the St. George. It is considered by Prof. Johnstone to be the dried relic of an ancient peat bog, as the analysis agrees with that of true peat; and he is of opinion that it owes its compactness and lustre to the basalt which overlies it. No peat, Mr. Smith observes, occurs at present in Madeira, or, he believes, has been found in any country so near the equator; and he calls attention to the lignite of Madeira, as seeming to indicate a former colder climate. At Canical, near the eastern extremity of the island, and extending from the north to the south shore, is a sandy valley, formed of minute particles of basalt and comminuted shells, in which are found vast numbers of land testacea and calcareous incrustations of plants. The last have been considered by some observers not to be of vegetable origin; but Mr. Smith has no doubt of their having been formed around the stems of plants. The terrestrial shells collected in this valley have been carefully determined by the Rev. Mr. Lowe; and he has ascertained, that one-sixth of them are of species not known in a living state in the island. The deposit is, therefore, placed by Mr. Smith among the newest tertiary formations; and he consequently points out the existence in Madeira of two tertiary calcareous deposits—one lying beneath the volcanic beds, and the other above them. The lime-kilns of Funchal are supplied with stone from a rock in an islet adjoining Porto Santo. The fossils obtained from it are almost exclusively casts, yet Prof. Agassiz has identified some of them with the casts of known living species; and Mr. Smith adds, as they are all recent, the age of the limestone must be extremely modern, though the rock bears the characters of a primary formation. The volcanic action connected with this islet, Mr. Smith considers to have been submarine; and the union of the basalt with the limestone is so complete, that the igneous and calcareous products never separate along the line of junction, when masses composed of the two rocks are detached. The stratification is nearly horizontal, and therefore the elevation of the islet above the level of the sea produced no apparent disturbance. On the island of Porto Santo the beds of basalt are scoriaceous on the surface, and rest on "volcanic brick"; and they are consequently considered to be of sub-aerial origin. There is also upon the island a deposit resembling that at Canical. The group of islands called the *Dizertas*, to the south-east of Madeira, is a chain of volcanic mountains, ranging north and south, or nearly at right angles to the axis of Madeira. The sea cliffs reach to their very summits, and exhibit beds of basalt, ashes, tufas, and "volcanic brick," intersected by innumerable dykes. No fossils have yet been observed upon these islands. The principal mountains of Madeira, Mr. Smith conceives, must once have been much higher, as their summits consist of beds which are found only at the base of volcanic cones. Though there is consequently no great cone, there are the ruins of several truncated craters, and many small lateral cones, as those to the west of Funchal. The most considerable of the craters is the Curral dos Freiras, an immense ravine, three miles in length, and one in breadth, and nearly 2,000 feet deep. It is surrounded on every side, except at a south gorge, with precipices of beds of basalt, tufas, and ashes, dipping outwards towards the base of the mountain. Though it partakes of the character assigned by Von Buch to craters of elevation, Mr. Smith states, that the island of Madeira could not have been formed under the sea, and been subsequently elevated, on account of the beds of vegetable soil, and the scoriae and ashes, having all the appearance of materials erupted in the open air. He also dissents from the conclusion that craters of elevation exist in the Canary Islands. The structure of the lateral cones is, in general, completely concealed by vegetation, but that of the Pico de St. Joao is partially exposed in the ruins of a fort, and consists of a scoriaceous conglomerate, the fragments composing which, Mr. Smith says, must have fallen in a half fused state, and been conglutinated on the spot. The small fortified island in Funchal Bay, and the adjoining eminence at the landing-place, are formed of a similar conglomerate. There are sections of many of these cones in the face of the sea cliffs, and some of them are covered by beds of lava and tufa erupted from other craters, amounting in one instance, at

Cape Giram, to the thickness of 1,400 feet. The beauty and regularity within limited distances of these volcanic strata, and the richness and variety of their colours, are most striking. Many of these beds have been rent, and the fissures which terminate upwards in acute angles have been filled with injected lavas. There are no indications of elevations above the level of the sea, during or since the period when the volcanic masses were accumulated over the limestone of San Vincent, but there are proofs of subsidence, as some of the beds of scoriae and ashes, and others containing vegetable remains, dip under the sea, and are found in positions in which they could not have remained, had the sea level been formerly the same as at present.

3. 'Sketch of the Geology of Aden, on the Coast of Arabia,' by Mr. F. Burr.—The promontory of Aden consists of a bold structure of volcanic rocks, rising into lofty jagged peaks, and is connected with the main land by a low, sandy isthmus; consolidated beds of sand and marine remains of existing species, also occur around the lower part of the promontory at different levels above the sea. The most interesting portion of this volcanic district is an immense, nearly circular crater, situated at the extremity next the mainland, and in the centre of which the town of Aden is built. The diameter of the crater is estimated to be a mile and a half, and its northern, western, and southern sides, rise to heights varying from 1,000 to 1,776 feet; on the eastern side the face of the crater is supposed, by Mr. Burr, to have subsided, and the sea flows almost close to the town, but the former range of the face is indicated by the lofty and abrupt island of Seerah, situated in a bay, and about the middle of the gap. The crater has also been cleft through from north to south, and the rents thus produced in its walls, are called the northern and southern passes. To the west of the rent the sides of the crater attain the height of about 1,780 feet, but to the east Mr. Burr considers, that they have undergone a partial subsidence, as they do not exceed half that height. The bottom of the crater, on which Aden stands, is nearly flat, but little above the sea level. The most abundant lava is very cellular, and of a dark brown colour. In some places it is associated with a greenish porphyry, and beds of a red ochreous nature. Nearly vertical dykes of a siliceous composition are of frequent occurrence. The beds of lava and porphyry generally dip outwards at an angle of 15°. Mr. Burr also mentions some specimens of black and green obsidian, which Dr. Malcolmson found on the promontory, but he was prevented from examining the locality whence they were procured.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 2.—Dr. Henderson in the chair.—John Wills, Esq., was elected a Fellow. A Banksian medal was awarded to Mr. Green, gardener to Sir E. Antrobus, for a magnificent specimen of *Epiphyllum truncatum*, grafted on the *Cereus speciosissimus*, by which it is rendered a hardy greenhouse plant, and produces its flowers at a later season. The plant was trained balloon fashion, and was completely covered with its rich crimson flowers. A brace of cucumbers grown in an improved pit, with fermenting material only, was sent by Mr. Mills, gardener at Gunnersbury, and gained a Banksian medal. These cucumbers were as perfect as if they had been grown during the most favourable season. Mrs. Marryat exhibited a plant of *Protea nigra*, a Cape species, with flowers at first sight not unlike an artichoke, but the interior is lined with a delicate pale yellow wool, and the tips of the scales are a deep black colour, of a velvety texture. Mr. Bateman sent flowers of *Mormodes lineatum*, a native of Guatemala, more curious than beautiful; and *Odontoglossum pulchellum*, a very graceful epiphyte from the same country; it was introduced last year, and, judging from the size of the native specimens, is capable of producing spikes of flowers twice the size of the one exhibited. The plants from the Society's Garden were *Epidendrum Stamfordianum*, a native of Guatemala, and one of the most beautiful of the genus; its charming pale yellow flowers are relieved by a clear violet spot in the centre, and diffuse a most delicious odour; the well-known *Oncidium Cebolletii*; *Zygopetalum rostratum*; *Chorozema varium*; and *Pentlandia miniata*, a pretty bulbous plant, from Cusco in Peru, allied to

Pancreaticum and *Narcissus*; it produces its clear scarlet flowers readily, and grows very freely.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

Jan. 19.—E. Forster, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. Mann exhibited *Sedum Telephium* in a growing state, after having been two years in an herbarium. Mr. Babington produced some Fir-cones, found under ten feet of peat at Burrischole, near Mewport, Mayo, along with nuts of *Corylus avellana*. Mr. Babington mentioned that no trees of either of the kinds had existed within many miles for 200 years, excepting a few lately planted. In a note, Professor Don said that the cones differ from the variety *Pinus sylvestris*, common in the Highlands of Scotland; but that they exactly resemble those of *Pinus Mughus*, from the Austrian Alps, figured by Jacquin. Mr. Janson exhibited two fine specimens of fossil wood from the Isle of Portland; one was the *Cycadeoidea megalophylla* of Buckland, and the other a part of the stem of some exogenous plant. Mr. C. Babington read 'A Description of a new Plant belonging to the natural order Linææ.'—This plant is particularly interesting, as it establishes the affinity of Linææ with Malvaceæ; the species described is *Cliococca tenuifolia*, an Australian plant, raised three or four years since in the Cambridge Botanic Garden. Some extracts were read from Mr. Griffith's letters; he stated that he had been watching the impregnation of ferns, and supposes he has discovered male organs in the shape of hairs at the end of the pines, which however are only to be seen at an early period. He found these organs most developed in *Adiantum*, and considered them equal to the anthers in Hepaticæ. He mentions a curious change in a species of *Lonicera*, in which, after the flowers had dropped, the ovules assumed every form between ovules and leaves, in consequence of the integuments of the ovules being metamorphosed into leaves.

Feb. 2.—E. Forster, Esq., in the chair.—A paper by Professor Don was read, 'On the existence of some curious Organs in the Pitchers of the Nepenthes,' which, from their lattice-like appearance, he proposed to name Clathrophores; they are supposed to be the mouths through which the fluid is poured into the pitchers, as in a young state the fluid does not rise higher than these pores. The Professor also noticed the structure of the pitchers of *Sarracenia* and *Cephalotes*. Descriptions of the Gramineæ and Cyperaceæ, from the Himalayas, by Professor Nees von Esenbeck and Dr. Royle, and the 'Description of some new Homopterous Insects,' by J. O. Westwood, Esq., were also read. Prof. Don exhibited specimens of *Carex Mairou*, found near Paris, and he called the attention of British botanists to it, as a plant not unlikely to be indigenous to Britain.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY.—Feb. 9.—J. Disney, Esq., in the chair.—Lord Morpeth and Alex. Konarskim were elected Fellows. After the ballot, a paper upon the cultivation of a collection of Camellias, in the possession of M. L'Abbé Berlese, was read by Mr. Sowerby. The chairman reported the progress made in the formation of the Society's Garden in the Regent's Park, and the meeting then adjourned.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Statistical Society	Eight, p.m.
	Royal Academy (Sculpture)	
TUE.	Horticultural Society	Two.
	Institute of Civil Engineers	Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	Eight.
	Microscopical Society (Annual)	Eight.
	Royal Society	4 p.m.
THUR.	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
	Numismatic Society	Seven.
FRI.	Geological Society (Ann.)	One.
	Royal Institution	4 p.m.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS.

The Nobility, Gentry, and the Public are most respectfully informed that the Members of this Society intend giving a GRAND CONCERT at the HASOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, on MONDAY EVENING, March 8, 1841. Conductor, Sir G. Smart. Leader, Mr. Willy.—Particulars will be duly announced. Single Tickets, 6s. each, and Family Tickets, to admit five persons, 12s. each, may be obtained of Mr. Erat, 23, Berners-street, and at the principal Music-shops.

COVENT GARDEN.—Mr. Jerrold's 'White Milliner' is a very little one, and quite as broad as she is long; yet she served to keep a willing audience amused for a couple of hours on Tuesday, and may do so for many nights more. The anecdote on which the comedy is founded is that of a woman attired in

white, her face hid by a white mask, pursuing the avocation of a milliner in the "old, original" western exchange, called "England's Bourse."—The unknown person was supposed to be the Duchess of Tyrconnel, but as masking was common in the days of good Queen Anne, the mystery was not unravelled. Nor would the stage have lost anything worth remembering if Mr. Jerrold had not attempted to turn it to dramatic account; for it has not proved a very suggestive theme, and the masquerade of the pretty milliner is still the most striking feature of her character and story. The milliner is annoyed by the intrusive attentions of a libertine lord, who, being a minister of state, is able to prosecute his suit by putting her in durance; the foolish Justice, her jailer, though he turns out an astute old fellow when he has a purpose of his own to carry—tries to circumvent his noble patron; but the lady is at once released from the importunities of both suitors, and from her other troubles also, by discovering in a disguised fellow captive her own husband, and in the wife of the minister her bosom friend. Madame Vestris as the *White Milliner* has only one opportunity of showing her talent to advantage, and that is in the scene, where on a hint from the Justice she pretends to be his niece, fresh from the daisies of Devonshire, in order to baffle her lordly persecutor; but this is the only scene of true dramatic character. There are some ludicrous farcical situations, especially the one where she escapes from her pursuer, who has caught hold of her sash, by making him turn away while she unties the ribband, and gives it to a lout of a serving man to hold—the array of milliners in the Bourse—their squabbles about the new rules propounded by a servile beadle with a crazy voice—and the subsequent entrance of a score of them, each carrying a bandbox containing a silk dress, which the titled gallant had ordered of the 'White Milliner.' The richest character, however, is *Saul Sneezum*, who, while he was assisting his master, the Doctor, to gather Mr. Mellowpear to his fathers, was planning how to pluck the over-ripe charms of his very consoling mate; the lumpish look of stolid satisfaction with which Keeley recounts his conquest of Mrs. Mellowpear, and the complacent matter-of-course air with which he contemplates his globe proportions, and sums up the sweets of his new position as the widow's solace—as though he had only to choose between his present good luck and any other that he might fancy—are in the highest gusto of comic acting. Mrs. Orger, as Mrs. Mellowpear, shone forth in autumnal splendour and geniality; and Mrs. Humby, as one of the bevy of milliners, is the very pink of vixens. Farren, as the knavish and muddle-pated Justice Twilight, looked as supple and obsequious, crafty and lickishish, as could be desired, and by the finish of his style gave force and identity to a slight and inconsistent sketch: Charles Mathews, as the profligate Lord Ortolon, wore a sumptuous suit of velvet and gold lace with a good grace, but his acting was nought;—and Miss Cooper, as his Lady, was out of her element. The dialogue of the piece is cleverly and closely written, and well spiced with sarcasm: the humour is caustic rather than sprightly, and the best sayings are those that leave a sting: still there is a genial spirit in Mr. Jerrold, which is welcome to the stage; and we shall be glad if he will prove by a better considered plot, and more inventive display of character, in some future comedy, that magazine-writing has not destroyed the power of one of the best melo-dramatic authors of the day.

MISCELLANEA.

The Lunar Eclipse.—The hazy state of the atmosphere on the night of Friday and Saturday last, prevented a clear observation of the lunar eclipse, which commenced soon after midnight, and continued till nearly four o'clock, in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. The astronomers of Paris appear to have been more fortunate; and from one of the journals of that capital we copy the following particulars:—"The total eclipse of the moon was accompanied by another phenomenon, whose coincidence with a lunar observation is very rare. About twelve hours after its issue from the shadow of the earth, the moon eclipsed, in its turn, a small star in the constellation of the Lion. According to the calculations of the Paris Observatory, this star, situated in 6 minutes of

southern latitude above the moon's centre, was lost behind the disc of the latter at 20 minutes past 4, on the evening of the 6th, re-appearing, also on the south, at 10 minutes past 7, after an obscuration of 50 minutes. Thus, those observers who did not shrink from a freezing watch, had the opportunity of witnessing a lunar and a stellar eclipse in the same day. This eclipse, which from 27 minutes past 1, to 4 minutes past 3, entirely hid the moon, was one of the longest which can ever be seen; nevertheless, the centres of the moon and of the earth's shadow did not exactly coincide."

Electricity from High Pressure Steam.—We lately noticed the occurrence of this interesting phenomena at Newcastle. It appears, from the *Ayr Observer*, that Mr. Condie, of the Blair Iron-works, has since observed a similar fact at the above works. The experimenter placed himself upon an insulated stool (a board resting upon three quart bottles), and having in one hand a long small rod of iron, with four sharpened points, similar to a lightning conductor. This he held in the steam issuing from the safety-valve. When the points were held about one foot from the valve, electric sparks were drawn by the bystanders' knuckles from those of the experimenter, about half an inch long; but as the pointed rod was raised to about six or eight feet above the valve into the cloud of steam, vivid sparks were then drawn, one inch and a half long, which, in fact, were nearly as stunning in their effects upon the arm as the shocks of a small Leyden phial. In the evening, the experiment was resumed. Each corner of the footboard had a brush of light two or three inches long, like as many tassels, while every point of the experimenter's hair and dress became highly luminous to the persons standing near him. Sparks two inches long, of great power, were drawn. The experiments were made upon the steam of two boilers each thirty-two feet long by six in diameter—first, with steam equal to 12 lb. on the inch, and latterly to 25 lb., the increase of pressure adding to the effect.

Reflecting Telescopes.—Unfortunately Sir William Herschel never made public the means by which he succeeded in giving such gigantic development to this telescope, and the construction of a large reflector is still a perilous adventure. According, however, to a report by Dr. Robinson to the Irish Academy, Lord Oxmantown has overcome the difficulties, and carried to an extent which even Herschel himself did not venture to contemplate, the illuminating power of this telescope, along with a sharpness of definition little inferior to that of the achromatic; and it is scarcely possible, he observes, to preserve the necessary sobriety of language in speaking of the moon's appearance with this instrument, which Dr. Robinson believes to be the most powerful ever constructed. However, any question about this optical pre-eminence is likely soon to be decided, for Lord Oxmantown is about to construct a telescope of six feet aperture, and fifty feet focus, mounted in the meridian, but with a range of about half an hour on each side of it!

Magnetic Declination.—A series of observations have been lately made by Prof. Bache of Philadelphia, and Prof. Lloyd of Dublin, in the hope of determining thereby differences of longitude.—When however, the two sets of observations were reduced and laid down in curves, it was found that they presented no similarity; in other words, that there was no correspondence whatever between the smaller changes of the declination at Dublin and at Philadelphia. The determination of differences of longitude, by means of the magnet, is, therefore, impracticable at such distances; but the attempt has revealed the important fact, that the irregular changes of declination, which have exhibited so marked a correspondence at the most distant stations at which simultaneous observations have been heretofore made, do not correspond on the American and European Continents.

Ice-cutting Steam Boats.—Letters from Copenhagen of the 18th ult. state, that M. C. M. Hjorth has just resolved a problem which, for upwards of ten years, has vainly exercised the sagacity of naval engineers—and whose solution has more than once been proposed for competition, as well by the General Administration of Posts, as by the corporation of merchants in the capital. He has invented a steam-boat, capable of cutting its way through the thickest ice, with a speed nearly equal to that of its

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unimpeded navigation. The General Administration of Posts have received a most favourable report from a committee of ship-builders and machine-makers, to whom they had submitted the model, and have applied for authority to construct a vessel, for the transport of the mail bags in winter.

Stammering.—The German papers mention a discovery of Professor Diefenbach, which is exciting general attention at Berlin. He has discovered a method for the cure of stammering, by an incision in the tongue,—which is said to have been in all the instances where he has operated, completely successful. According to the Professor, stammering proceeds from the difficulty of applying the tongue to the roof of the mouth, and his remedy of course consists in the removal of the impediment.

Hôtel de Trémouille.—All who take an interest in Parisian antiquities, may be glad to know, that the demolition of the Hôtel de Trémouille, in the Rue des Bourdonnais, is not to include that of the beautiful tower which forms the conspicuous ornament of its principal court. The proprietors have presented this fine relic of the architecture of the 13th century to the city,—and it is about to be transported to the Museum of Historical Monuments.

Head of the Laocoon.—The following statement has appeared in the French papers, and is professedly contained in a letter from M. Valmore, an artist at Brussels:—"In the Gallery of the Duke d'Arenberg there are many things which are not known to any but the initiated. Among them is the original head of the Laocoon. This fine group, when first discovered in Italy, was, as is generally known, "without the head of the father, and an arm of one of the sons. The head was supplied by a celebrated artist, who copied it from an antique bas-relief. Some time afterwards, the original was found by some Venetian connoisseurs, and was ultimately sold to the grandfather of the Prince for about 160,000 francs, and brought to Brussels. When Napoleon, during the Consulate, had the group transported into France, he knew that the real head was in possession of the Duke, and offered him its weight in gold for it. This was refused; and as it was known that Napoleon was not scrupulous in gratifying his desires, the Duke d'Arenberg sent this *chef-d'œuvre* to Dresden, where it remained concealed for ten years, but was brought back again into Brussels, when Belgium became tranquil. It expresses, in the highest and most admirable degree, moral grief mingled with physical pain. The compression of the teeth and contraction of the lower jaw are almost too horrifying to be long contemplated; and yet in this intense expression of suffering there is not the slightest grimace. The pupils of the eyes are so exquisitely executed, that they actually seem to flash from the marble (!) A cast from the head now on the statue is placed by the side of the original, and the vast difference between the two is at once evident."

Daniel Ellis, Esq., F.R.S.E.—It is with much regret that we announce the death of this gentleman on Sunday the 17th ult., after a short illness. To the scientific world, Mr. Ellis has been long known as the author of two volumes, illustrative of the changes induced on atmospheric air by the germination of seeds, the vegetation of plants, and the respiration of animals; a work which, in tracing some interesting analogies between the animal and vegetable kingdoms, presents a rare specimen of fidelity in recording the observations and discoveries of others, and of ingenuity in supplying the deficiencies of their investigations by original experimental researches. He was the author also of the articles on Vegetable Anatomy and Vegetable Physiology in the Supplement to the sixth edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' as well as of other memoirs on topics connected with these subjects, all distinguished by the same spirit of candour, discrimination, and scientific genius.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

Effect of Cold on Old Persons.—The effect of cold on the aged is strikingly evinced by the tables of mortality for 1838, as the following statement will show, of deaths in the metropolis:—

	Winter.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.
Total deaths	15,611	13,169	13,379	12,581
Old age	1,383	969	778	981

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—P. C.—Subscriber, Abingdon.—H. M.—Thomas Beale & Co. L. received.—We cannot comply with the request of D. C.

This day, price 6d. stamped to go free by post, No. VII. of THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

* * * May be ordered of all Newsmen.

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